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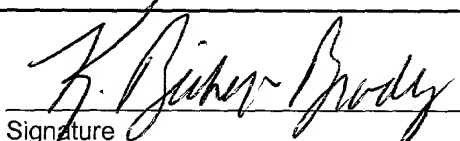
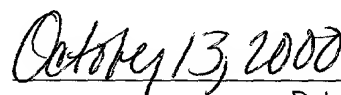
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| Date of Deposit <u>October 13, 2000</u>  | Label Number: <u>EL507497328US</u>                                 |
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| UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL UNDER 37 CFR §1.53(b)  |  |
|---|--|
| Attorney Docket Number  | 00742/056003                                 |
| Applicant   | Junying Yuan, Alexei Degterev, Tim Mitchison |
| Title   | SMALL MOLECULE INHIBITORS OF NECROSIS        |
| <b>PRIORITY INFORMATION:</b>  |  |
| This application claims priority from United States provisional patent applications serial nos. 60/159,668 and 60/174,749, filed October 15, 1999, and January 6, 2000, respectively.   |  |
| <b>APPLICATION ELEMENTS:</b>  |  |
| Cover sheet   | 1 pages                                      |
| Specification   | 41 pages                                     |
| Claims  | 18 pages                                     |
| Abstract  | 1 page                                       |
| Drawing   | 8 sheets                                     |
| Combined Declaration and POA, which is:<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsigned;<br><input type="checkbox"/> Newly signed for this application;<br><input type="checkbox"/> A copy from prior application ["**SERIAL NUMBER**"] and the entire disclosure of the prior application is considered as being part of the disclosure of this new application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein. | 3 pages                                      |
| Statement Deleting Inventors  | ["**"] pages                                 |
| Sequence Statement  | ["**"] pages                                 |
| Sequence Listing on Paper   | ["**"] pages                                 |
| Sequence Listing on Diskette  | ["**"] disk                                  |
| Small Entity Statements, which are:<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unsigned;<br><input type="checkbox"/> Newly signed for this application;<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Copies from prior applications serial nos. 60/159,668 and 60/174,749 and such small entity status is still proper and desired.  | 2 pages                                      |
| Preliminary Amendment   | ["**"] pages                                 |

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|---|---|
| IDS   | [**] pages  |
| Form PTO 1449   | [**] pages  |
| Cited References  | [**] references   |
| Recordation Form Cover Sheet and Assignment   | [**] pages  |
| Assignee's Statement  | [**] pages  |
| English Translation   | [**] pages  |
| Certified Copy of Priority Document   | [**] pages  |
| Return Receipt Postcard   | 1   |
| <b>FILING FEES:</b>   |   |
| Basic Filing Fee: \$355   | \$355.00  |
| Excess Claims Fee: 79 -20 = 59 x \$9  | \$531.00  |
| Excess Independent Claims Fee: 13 -3 = 10 \$40  | \$400.00  |
| Multiple Dependent Claims Fee: \$135  | \$135.00  |
| Total Fees:   | \$1,421.00  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enclosed is a check for \$1,421.00 to cover the total fees.<br><input type="checkbox"/> Charge [**AMOUNT**] to Deposit Account No. 03-2095 to cover the total fees.<br><input type="checkbox"/> The filing fee is not being paid at this time.<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please apply any other charges, or any credits, to Deposit Account No. 03-2095. |   |
| <b>CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:</b>  |   |
| Kristina Bieker-Brady, Ph.D.<br>Reg. No. 39,109<br>Clark & Elbing LLP<br>176 Federal Street<br>Boston, MA 02110   |   |
| Telephone: 617-428-0200<br>Facsimile: 617-428-7045  |   |
| <br>Signature  | <br>Date |

Applicant or Patentee : Junying Yuan *et al.*  
 Serial or Patent No. : 60/174,749  
 Filed or Issued : January 6, 2000  
 Title : SMALL MOLECULE INHIBITORS OF NECROSIS

**VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS  
 (37 CFR 1.9(f) and 1.27(d)) - NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION**

I hereby declare that I am an official empowered to act on behalf of the nonprofit organization identified below:

**Name of Organization:** President and Fellows of Harvard College

**Address of Organization:** 17 Quincy Street, Cambridge, MA 02138

**Type of Organization:**

- ☒ University or Other Institution of Higher Education  
☐ Tax Exempt under Internal Revenue Service Code (26 USC 501(a) and 501(c)(3))  
☐ Nonprofit Scientific or Educational under Statute of State of the United States of America  
 Name of State:  
 Citation of Statute:  
☐ Would Qualify as Tax Exempt under Internal Revenue Service Code (26 USC 501(a) and 501(c)(3)) If Located in the United States of America  
☐ Would Qualify as Nonprofit Scientific or Educational under Statute of State of the United States of America If Located in the United States of America  
 Name of State:  
 Citation of Statute:

I hereby declare that the nonprofit organization identified above qualifies as a nonprofit organization as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(e) for purposes of paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code with regard to the invention entitled SMALL MOLECULE INHIBITORS OF NECROSIS by inventors Junying Yuan, Alexei Degterev, and Tim Mitchison described in

- ☐ the specification filed herewith.  
☒ application serial no. 60/174,749, filed January 6, 2000.  
☐ patent no. [\*\*PATENT NUMBER\*\*], issued [\*\*ISSUE DATE\*\*].

I hereby declare that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the nonprofit organization with regard to the above identified invention.

If the rights held by the nonprofit organization are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights to the invention is listed below\* and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who could not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(c) or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

\*NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

**Full Name:**

**Address:**

☐ INDIVIDUAL ☐ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN ☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

**Name:** Jeffrey Labovitz, Ph.D.

**Title:** Director, Office of Technology Licensing

**Address:** Harvard Medical School, Office of Technology Licensing & Industry Sponsored Research, 25 Shattuck Street Building A, Room 414, Boston, MA 02115

**Signature:** 

**Date:** 4/14/00

DOCKET # 5708860

Applicant or Patentee : Junying Yuan et al.  
 Serial or Patent No. : 60/159,668  
 Filed or Issued : October 15, 1999  
 Title : SMALL MOLECULE INHIBITORS OF TNF $\alpha$  INDUCED NECROSIS

**VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS  
 (37 CFR 1.9(f) and 1.27(d)) - NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION**

I hereby declare that I am an official empowered to act on behalf of the nonprofit organization identified below:

**Name of Organization:** President and Fellows of Harvard College  
**Address of Organization:** 17 Quincy Street, Cambridge, MA 02138  
**Type of Organization:**

- ☒ University or Other Institution of Higher Education  
☐ Tax Exempt under Internal Revenue Service Code (26 USC 501(a) and 501(c)(3))  
☐ Nonprofit Scientific or Educational under Statute of State of the United States of America  
 Name of State:  
 Citation of Statute:  
☐ Would Qualify as Tax Exempt under Internal Revenue Service Code (26 USC 501(a) and 501(c)(3)) If Located in the United States of America  
☐ Would Qualify as Nonprofit Scientific or Educational under Statute of State of the United States of America If Located in the United States of America  
 Name of State:  
 Citation of Statute:

I hereby declare that the nonprofit organization identified above qualifies as a nonprofit organization as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(e) for purposes of paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code with regard to the invention entitled SMALL MOLECULE INHIBITORS OF TNF $\alpha$  INDUCED NECROSIS by inventors Junying Yuan, Alexei Degterev, and Tim Mitchison described in

- ☐ the specification filed herewith.  
☒ application serial no. 60/159,668, filed October 15, 1999.  
☐ patent no. [\*\*PATENT NUMBER\*\*], issued [\*\*ISSUE DATE\*\*].

I hereby declare that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the nonprofit organization with regard to the above identified invention.

If the rights held by the nonprofit organization are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights to the invention is listed below\* and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who could not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(c) or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

\*NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

**Full Name:**

**Address:**

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I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

**Name:** Joyce Brinton

**Title:** Director, Office for Technology & Trademark Licensing

**Address:** 124 Mt. Auburn Street, Cambridge, MA 02139

**Signature:** 

**Date:** 11/8/99

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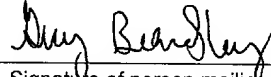
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Guy Beardsley

Printed name of person mailing correspondence



Signature of person mailing correspondence

APPLICATION  
FOR  
UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

APPLICANTS : JUNYING YUAN  
ALEXEI DEGTEREV  
TIM MITCHISON

TITLE : SMALL MOLECULE INHIBITORS OF NECROSIS

SMALL MOLECULE INHIBITORS OF NECROSIS

5                   Cross Reference To Related Applications

This application claims priority from U.S. Provisional Application Serial  
Nos. 60/159,668, filed October 15, 1999 and 60/174,749, filed January 6, 2000.

Statement as to Federally Sponsored Research

10           This invention was made in part with Government funding, and the  
Government therefore has certain rights in the invention.

Background of the Invention

In general, the invention relates to methods and compounds used to  
decrease necrosis.

15           In many diseases, cell death is mediated through apoptotic and/or  
necrotic pathways. While much is known about the mechanisms of action that  
control apoptosis, control of necrosis is not as well understood. Understanding the  
mechanisms regulating both necrosis and apoptosis in cells is essential to being  
able to treat conditions, such as neurodegenerative diseases, stroke, coronary heart  
disease, kidney disease, and liver disease. A thorough understanding of necrotic  
20   and apoptotic cell death pathways is also crucial to treating AIDS and the  
conditions associated with AIDS, such as retinal necrosis.

Research has shown that caspases play a central role in the induction of  
apoptosis. Peptide based inhibitors of caspases, such as zVAD-fmk are useful in  
preventing activation of the apoptotic cell death pathway in cells stimulated to

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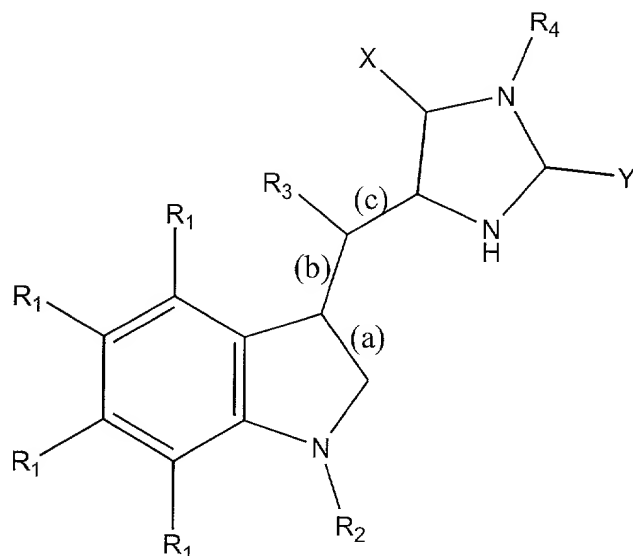
undergo apoptosis by compounds such as  $\text{TNF}\alpha$ . However, cells treated with zVAD-fmk and these cell death stimuli still die through a caspase-independent form of necrosis.

Discovery of a compound which prevents caspase-independent cell death (necrosis) would provide a useful therapeutic for treating conditions in which necrosis occurs, and for preventing the onset of necrosis. These compounds and methods may be particularly useful for treating ischemic brain and heart injuries and head traumas.

#### Summary of the Invention

10       The present invention features methods and compounds for decreasing necrosis. The compounds of the present invention may be used as therapeutics to decrease necrosis in a desired cell, such as a neuron. These compounds are characterized by their ability to decrease necrosis in response to modulation of intracellular signaling pathways, such as those activated by  $\text{TNF}\alpha$ . By also treating  
15       the cells with zVAD-fmk, we have inhibited the apoptotic pathway. Accordingly, we have been able to determine that the compounds of the invention specifically decrease necrosis. In addition, we have shown that the identified compounds that decrease necrosis in response to a necrotic pathway activated by zVAD-fmk and  $\text{TNF}\alpha$ , also decrease necrosis in response to a necrotic pathway activated by zVAD-  
20       fmk and dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO).

Accordingly, in a first aspect, the invention features a chemical compound in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, having the formula:

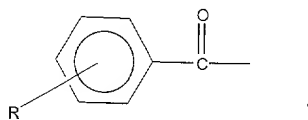
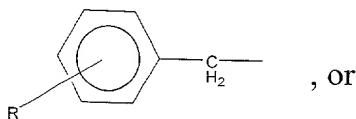


wherein each  $R_1$  is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, carboxy, methyl, hydroxyl, methoxyl, amino, and nitro;  $R_2$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, and acyl;  $R_3$  is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, acyl, halogen, hydrogen, or hydroxyl;  $R_4$  is selected from the group consisting of methyl, hydroxyl, carboxyl, and linear and branching alkyl groups; X is selected from the group consisting of =O, -OH and -H; Y is selected from the group consisting of =S and -SR<sub>5</sub>, where R<sub>5</sub> is either hydrogen or an alkyl group; and each of the bonds (a), (b), and (c) independently is either a double or single bond, provided, however, that bond (a) and bond (b) are not both double bonds.



In a preferred embodiment of the first aspect of the invention, in the compound each  $R_1$  is hydrogen;  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  are each hydrogen;  $R_4$  is a methyl group;  $X$  is  $=O$ ;  $Y$  is  $=S$ ; bond (a) is a double bond; and bonds (b) and (c) are each single bonds.

5 In another embodiment, the acyl group of  $R_1$  or  $R_3$  is selected from the group consisting of:



In other embodiments, in the compound if  $R_1$  is a hydrogen, then  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  are not each hydrogen; or  $R_4$  is not a methyl group; or  $X$  is not  $=O$ ; or  $Y$  is not  $=S$ ; or bond (a) is not a double bond; or bonds (b) and (c) are not each single  
 15 bonds. If  $R_2$  is a hydrogen, then  $R_1$  is not a hydrogen, or  $R_3$  is not a hydrogen; or  $R_4$  is not a methyl group; or  $X$  is not  $=O$ ; or  $Y$  is not  $=S$ ; or bond (a) is not a double bond; or bonds (b) and (c) are not each single bonds. If  $R_3$  is a hydrogen, then  $R_1$  is not a hydrogen, or  $R_2$  is not a hydrogen; or  $R_4$  is not a methyl group; or  $X$  is not  $=O$ ; or  $Y$  is not  $=S$ ; or bond (a) is not a double bond; or bonds (b) and (c) are

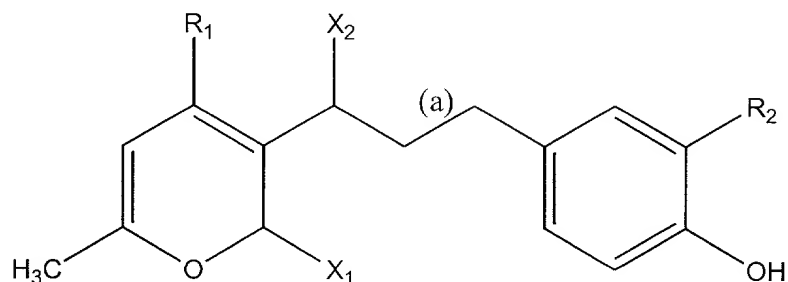
not each single bonds. If  $R_4$  is a methyl group, then  $R_1$  is a not a hydrogen, or  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  are not each not a hydrogen; or  $X$  is not  $=O$ ; or  $Y$  is not  $=S$ ; or bond (a) is not a double bond; or bonds (b) and (c) are not each single bonds.

5 In other embodiments, if  $X$  is  $=O$ , then  $R_1$  is a not a hydrogen, or  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  are not each not a hydrogen; or  $R_4$  is not a methyl group; or  $Y$  is not  $=S$ ; or bond (a) is not a double bond; or bonds (b) and (c) are not each single bonds. If  $Y$  is  $=S$ , then  $R_1$  is a not a hydrogen, or  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  are not each not a hydrogen; or  $R_4$  is not a methyl group; or  $X$  is not  $=O$ ; or bond (a) is not a double bond; or bonds (b) and (c) are not each single bonds.

10 In yet other embodiments, if bond (a) is a double bond, then  $R_1$  is a not a hydrogen, or  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  are not each not a hydrogen; or  $R_4$  is not a methyl group; or  $X$  is not  $=O$ ; or  $Y$  is not  $=S$ ; or bonds (b) and (c) are not each single bonds. If bond (b) is a single bond, then  $R_1$  is a not a hydrogen, or  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  are not each not a hydrogen; or  $R_4$  is not a methyl group; or  $X$  is not  $=O$ ; or  $Y$  is not  $=S$ ; bond (a) is not a double bond or bond (c) is not a single bond. If bond (c) is a single bond, then  $R_1$  is a not a hydrogen, or  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  are not each not a hydrogen; or  $R_4$  is not a methyl group; or  $X$  is not  $=O$ ; or  $Y$  is not  $=S$ ; bond (a) is not a double bond or bond (b) is not a single bond.

15

In a second aspect, the invention features a compound in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, having the formula:



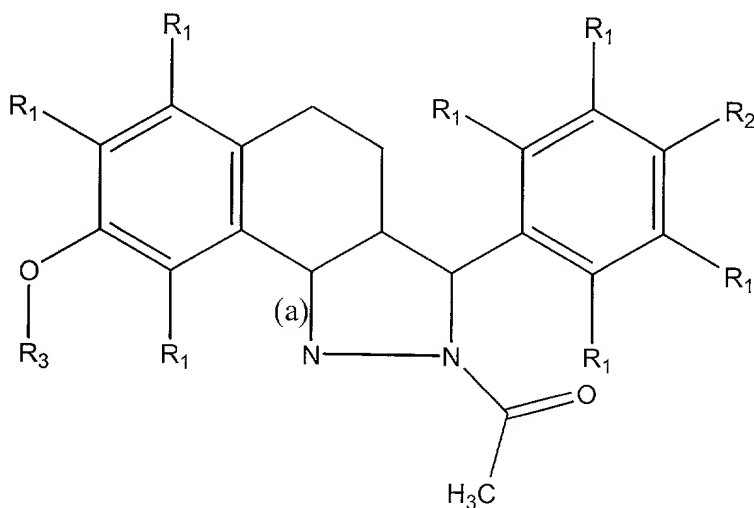
wherein each of X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> is independently selected from the group consisting of =O, -OH and -H; R<sub>1</sub> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and hydroxyl; R<sub>2</sub> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, sulfate, nitro, and halide; and the bond (a) is either a single or double bond.

In a preferred embodiment of the second aspect of the invention, in the compound each of X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> is =O; R<sub>1</sub> is a hydroxyl group; R<sub>2</sub> is a nitro group; and the bond (a) is a double bond.

In other embodiments, if X<sub>1</sub> is =O, then X<sub>2</sub> is not =O; or R<sub>1</sub> is not a hydroxyl group; or R<sub>2</sub> is not a nitro group; or the bond (a) is not a double bond. If X<sub>2</sub> is =O, then X<sub>1</sub> is not =O; or R<sub>1</sub> is not a hydroxyl group; or R<sub>2</sub> is not a nitro group; or the bond (a) is not a double bond. If R<sub>1</sub> is a hydroxyl group, then each of X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> are not =O; or R<sub>2</sub> is not a nitro group; or the bond (a) is not a double bond. If R<sub>2</sub> is a nitro group, then each of X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> are not =O; or R<sub>1</sub> is not a hydroxyl group; or the bond (a) is not a double bond. If the bond (a) is a double

bond, then each of  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  are not  $=O$ ; or  $R_1$  is not a hydroxyl group; or  $R_2$  is a not a nitro group; or the bond (a) is not a double bond.

In a third aspect, the invention features a chemical compound in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, having the formula:



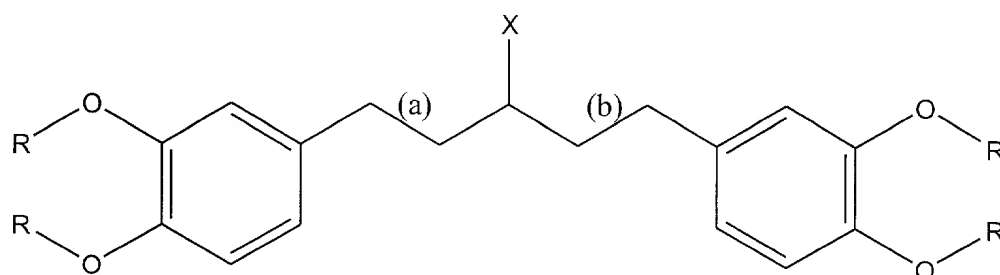
- 5 wherein each  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, amino, halide, and hydroxyl;  $R_3$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and methyl; and the bond (a) is either a single or double bond.

- 10 In a preferred embodiment of the third aspect of the invention, in the compound each  $R_1$  is hydrogen;  $R_2$  is fluorine;  $R_3$  is a methyl group; and the bond (a) is a double bond.

In other embodiments of the third aspect of the invention, if  $R_1$  is a hydrogen, then  $R_2$  is not fluorine; or  $R_3$  is not a methyl group; or the bond (a) is not a double bond. If  $R_2$  is a fluorine, then  $R_1$  is not hydrogen; or  $R_3$  is a not a methyl group; or the bond (a) is not a double bond. If  $R_3$  is a methyl group, then  $R_1$  is not

hydrogen, or  $R_2$  is not fluorine; or the bond (a) is not a double bond. If the bond (a) is a double bond, then  $R_1$  is not hydrogen, or  $R_2$  is not fluorine; or  $R_3$  is not a methyl group.

In a fourth aspect, the invention features a chemical compound in a  
5 pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, having the formula:

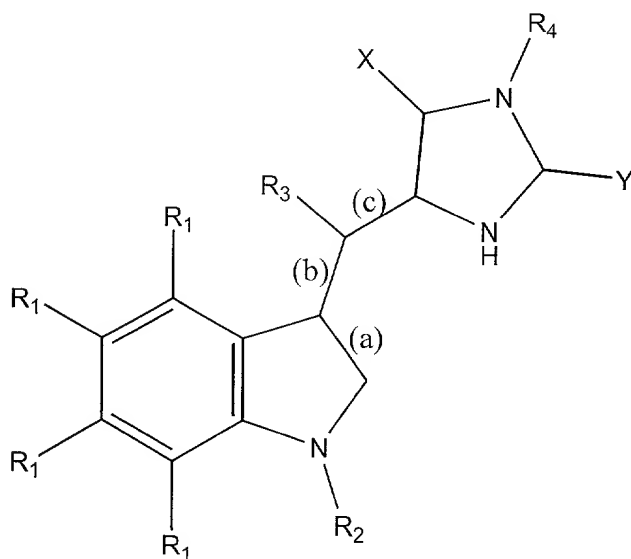


wherein each R is independently selected from the group consisting of H or  $CH_3$ ; the bond (a) is either a single or double bond; the bond (b) is either a single or double bond; and X is selected from the group consisting of  $=O$ ,  $-OH$  and  $-H$ .

In a preferred embodiment of the fourth aspect of the invention, in the  
10 compound each R is  $CH_3$ ; the bonds (a) and (b) are each a double bond; and X is  $=O$ .

In other embodiments of the fourth aspect of the invention, if each R is  $CH_3$ , then the bonds (a) and (b) are not each a double bond; or X is not  $=O$ . If the double bond (a) is a double bond, then each R is not  $CH_3$ ; or the bond (b) is not a  
15 double bond; or X is not  $=O$ . If the bond (b) is a double bond, then each R is not  $CH_3$ ; or the bond (a) is not a double bond; or X is not  $=O$ . If X is  $=O$ , then R is not  $CH_3$ , or the bonds (a) and (b) are not each a double bond.

In a fifth aspect, the invention features a method for decreasing necrosis, involving contacting a cell with a chemical compound having the formula:



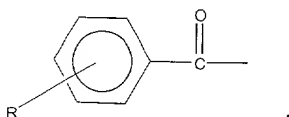
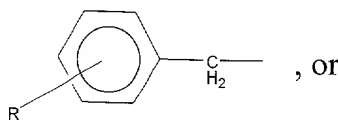
wherein each  $R_1$  is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, carboxy, methyl, hydroxyl, methoxyl, amino, and nitro;  $R_2$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, and acyl;  $R_3$  is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, acyl, halogen, hydrogen, or hydroxyl;  $R_4$  is selected from the group consisting of methyl, hydroxyl, carboxyl, and linear and branching alkyl groups;  $X$  is selected from the group consisting of  $=O$ ,  $-OH$  and  $-H$ ;  $Y$  is selected from the group consisting of  $=S$  and  $-SR_5$ , where  $R_5$  is either hydrogen or an alkyl group; and each of the bonds (a), (b), and (c) independently is either a double or single bond, provided, however, that bond (a) and bond (b) are not both double bonds.

In a preferred embodiment of the fifth aspect of the invention, in the compound each  $R_1$  is hydrogen;  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  are each hydrogen;  $R_4$  is a methyl group;  $X$  is  $=O$ ;  $Y$  is  $=S$ ; bond (a) is a double bond; and bonds (b) and (c) are each single bonds.

- 5 In another embodiment, the acyl group of  $R_1$  or  $R_3$  is selected from the group consisting of:



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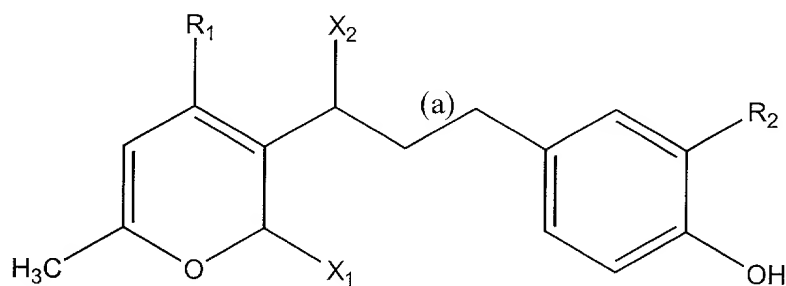
- In other embodiments, in the compound if  $R_1$  is a hydrogen, then  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  are not each hydrogen; or  $R_4$  is not a methyl group; or  $X$  is not  $=O$ ; or  $Y$  is not  $=S$ ; or bond (a) is not a double bond; or bonds (b) and (c) are not each single bonds. If  $R_2$  is a hydrogen, then  $R_1$  is a not a hydrogen, or  $R_3$  is not a hydrogen; or  $R_4$  is not a methyl group; or  $X$  is not  $=O$ ; or  $Y$  is not  $=S$ ; or bond (a) is not a double bond; or bonds (b) and (c) are not each single bonds. If  $R_3$  is a hydrogen, then  $R_1$  is a not a hydrogen, or  $R_2$  is not a hydrogen; or  $R_4$  is not a methyl group; or  $X$  is not  $=O$ ; or  $Y$  is not  $=S$ ; or bond (a) is not a double bond; or bonds (b) and (c) are not each single bonds. If  $R_4$  is a methyl group, then  $R_1$  is a not a hydrogen, or  $R_2$
- 15
- 20

and R<sub>3</sub> are not each not a hydrogen; or X is not =O; or Y is not =S; or bond (a) is not a double bond; or bonds (b) and (c) are not each single bonds.

In other embodiments, if X is =O, then R<sub>1</sub> is a not a hydrogen, or R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are not each not a hydrogen; or R<sub>4</sub> is not a methyl group; or Y is not =S; or  
5 bond (a) is not a double bond; or bonds (b) and (c) are not each single bonds. If Y is =S, then R<sub>1</sub> is a not a hydrogen, or R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are not each not a hydrogen; or R<sub>4</sub> is not a methyl group; or X is not =O; or bond (a) is not a double bond; or bonds (b) and (c) are not each single bonds.

In yet other embodiments, if bond (a) is a double bond, then R<sub>1</sub> is a not a  
10 hydrogen, or R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are not each not a hydrogen; or R<sub>4</sub> is not a methyl group; or X is not =O; or Y is not =S; or bonds (b) and (c) are not each single bonds. If bond (b) is a single bond, then R<sub>1</sub> is a not a hydrogen, or R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are not each not a hydrogen; or R<sub>4</sub> is not a methyl group; or X is not =O; or Y is not =S; bond (a) is not a double bond or bond (c) is not a single bond. If bond (c) is a single bond,  
15 then R<sub>1</sub> is a not a hydrogen, or R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are not each not a hydrogen; or R<sub>4</sub> is not a methyl group; or X is not =O; or Y is not =S; bond (a) is not a double bond or bond (b) is not a single bond.

In a sixth aspect, the invention features a method for decreasing necrosis, involving contacting a cell with a chemical compound having the  
20 formula:





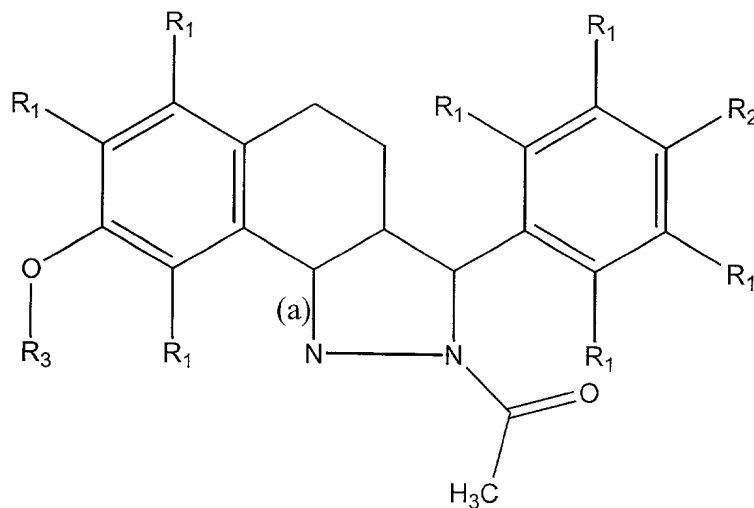
wherein each of  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  is independently selected from the group consisting of =O, -OH and -H;  $R_1$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and a hydroxyl;  $R_2$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, sulfate, nitro, and halide; and the bond (a) is either a single or double bond.

5            In a preferred embodiment of the sixth aspect of the invention, in the compound each of  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  is =O;  $R_1$  is a hydroxyl group;  $R_2$  is a nitro group; and the bond (a) is a double bond.

10            In other preferred embodiments of the sixth aspect of the invention, if  $X_1$  is =O, then  $X_2$  is not =O; or  $R_1$  is not a hydroxyl group; or  $R_2$  is not a nitro group; or the bond (a) is not a double bond. If  $X_2$  is =O, then  $X_1$  is not =O; or  $R_1$  is not a hydroxyl group; or  $R_2$  is not a nitro group; or the bond (a) is not a double bond. If  $R_1$  is a hydroxyl group, then each of  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  are not =O; or  $R_2$  is not a nitro group; or the bond (a) is not a double bond. If  $R_2$  is a nitro group, then each of  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  are not =O; or  $R_1$  is not a hydroxyl group; or the bond (a) is not a double bond. If the bond (a) is a double bond, then each of  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  are not =O; or  $R_1$  is not a hydroxyl group; or  $R_2$  is not a nitro group; or the bond (a) is not a double bond.

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In a seventh aspect, the invention features a method for decreasing necrosis, involving contacting a cell with a chemical compound having the formula:



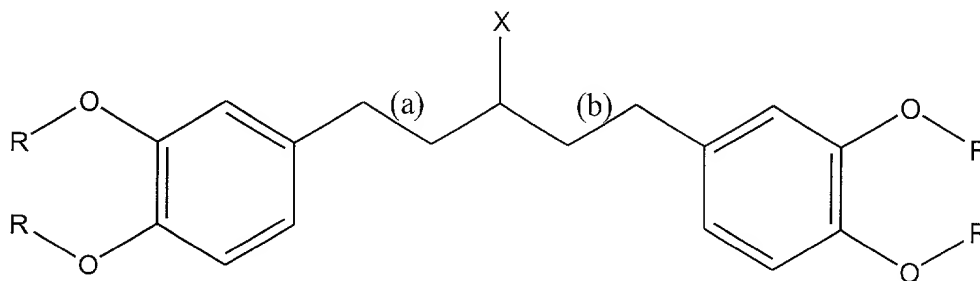
wherein each  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, amino, halide, and hydroxyl;  $R_3$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and methyl; and the bond (a) is either a single or double bond.

In a preferred embodiment of the seventh aspect of the invention, in the compound each  $R_1$  is hydrogen;  $R_2$  is fluorine;  $R_3$  is a methyl group; and the bond (a) is a double bond.

In other embodiments of the seventh aspect of the invention, if  $R_1$  is a hydrogen, then  $R_2$  is not fluorine; or  $R_3$  is not a methyl group; or the bond (a) is not a double bond. If  $R_2$  is a fluorine, then  $R_1$  is not hydrogen; or  $R_3$  is not a methyl group; or the bond (a) is not a double bond. If  $R_3$  is a methyl group, then  $R_1$  is not hydrogen, or  $R_2$  is not fluorine; or the bond (a) is not a double bond. If the bond (a) is a double bond, then  $R_1$  is not hydrogen, or  $R_2$  is not fluorine; or  $R_3$  is not a

methyl group.

In an eighth aspect, the invention features a method for decreasing necrosis, involving contacting a cell with a chemical compound having the formula:



- 5 wherein each R is independently selected from the group consisting of H or CH<sub>3</sub>; the bond (a) is either a single or double bond; the bond (b) is either a single or double bond; and X is selected from the group consisting of =O, -OH and -H.

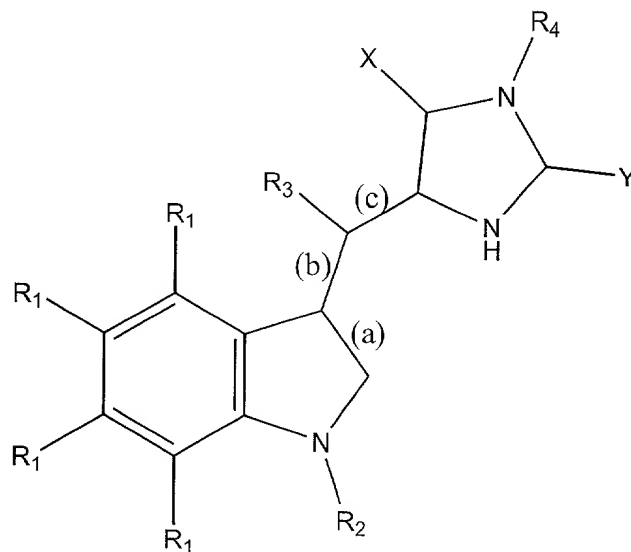
10 In a preferred embodiment of the eighth aspect of the invention, in the compound each R is CH<sub>3</sub>; the (a) and (b) bonds are each a double bond; and X is =O.

In other embodiments of the eighth aspect of the invention, if each R is CH<sub>3</sub>, then the bonds (a) and (b) are not each a double bond; or X is not =O. If the double bond (a) is a double bond, then each R is not CH<sub>3</sub>; or the bond (b) is not a double bond; or X is not =O. If the bond (b) is a double bond, then each R is not CH<sub>3</sub>; or the bond (a) is not a double bond; or X is not =O. If X is =O, then R is not CH<sub>3</sub>, or the bonds (a) and (b) are not each a double bond.

In a preferred embodiment of any of the fifth, sixth, seventh, or eighth aspects of the invention, the cell is capable of undergoing necrosis in the presence

of zVAD-fmk and  $\text{TNF}\alpha$ . In another preferred embodiment, the cell is capable of undergoing necrosis in the presence of zVAD-fmk and DMSO. In yet another preferred embodiment, the cell is mammalian, such as a human or rodent cell. In yet another preferred embodiment, the cell is a neuron. In still another preferred embodiment, the compound is in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

In a ninth aspect, the invention features a method for treating a condition in a subject, involving the steps of administering a chemical compound having the formula:

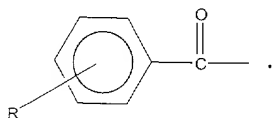
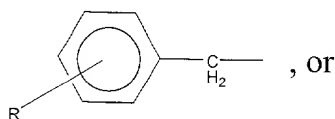
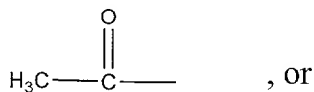


to the subject, in a dosage sufficient to decrease necrosis, wherein each  $\text{R}_1$  is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, carboxy, methyl, hydroxyl, methoxyl, amino, and nitro;  $\text{R}_2$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, and acyl;  $\text{R}_3$  is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, acyl,

halogen, hydrogen, or hydroxyl;  $R_4$  is selected from the group consisting of methyl, hydroxyl, carboxyl, and linear and branching alkyl groups; X is selected from the group consisting of =O, -OH and -H; Y is selected from the group consisting of =S and -SR<sub>5</sub>, where R<sub>5</sub> is either hydrogen or an alkyl group; and each of the bonds (a), (b), and (c) independently is either a double or single bond, provided, however, that bond (a) and bond (b) are not both double bonds.

In a preferred embodiment of the ninth aspect of the invention, in the compound each  $R_1$  is hydrogen;  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  are each hydrogen;  $R_4$  is a methyl group; X is =O; Y is =S; bond (a) is a double bond; and bonds (b) and (c) are each single bonds.

In another embodiment, the acyl group of  $R_1$  or  $R_3$  is selected from the group consisting of:



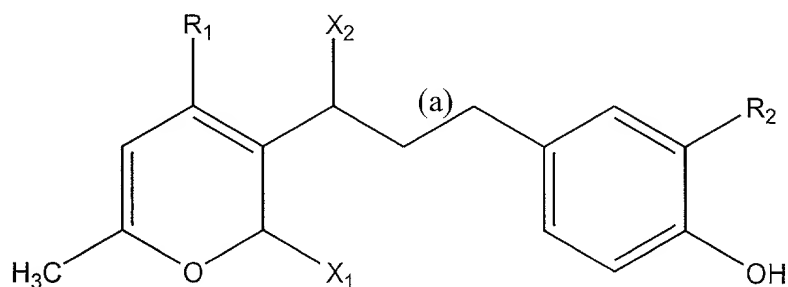
In other embodiments, in the compound if  $R_1$  is a hydrogen, then  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  are not each hydrogen; or  $R_4$  is not a methyl group; or X is not =O; or Y is not

=S; or bond (a) is not a double bond; or bonds (b) and (c) are not each single bonds. If  $R_2$  is a hydrogen, then  $R_1$  is not a hydrogen, or  $R_3$  is not a hydrogen; or  $R_4$  is not a methyl group; or X is not =O; or Y is not =S; or bond (a) is not a double bond; or bonds (b) and (c) are not each single bonds. If  $R_3$  is a hydrogen, then  $R_1$  is not a hydrogen, or  $R_2$  is not a hydrogen; or  $R_4$  is not a methyl group; or X is not =O; or Y is not =S; or bond (a) is not a double bond; or bonds (b) and (c) are not each single bonds. If  $R_4$  is a methyl group, then  $R_1$  is not a hydrogen, or  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  are not each not a hydrogen; or X is not =O; or Y is not =S; or bond (a) is not a double bond; or bonds (b) and (c) are not each single bonds.

In other embodiments, if X is =O, then R<sub>1</sub> is not a hydrogen, or R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are not each not a hydrogen; or R<sub>4</sub> is not a methyl group; or Y is not =S; or bond (a) is not a double bond; or bonds (b) and (c) are not each single bonds. If Y is =S, then R<sub>1</sub> is not a hydrogen, or R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are not each not a hydrogen; or R<sub>4</sub> is not a methyl group; or X is not =O; or bond (a) is not a double bond; or bonds (b) and (c) are not each single bonds.

In yet other embodiments, if bond (a) is a double bond, then R<sub>1</sub> is a not a hydrogen, or R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are not each not a hydrogen; or R<sub>4</sub> is not a methyl group; or X is not =O; or Y is not =S; or bonds (b) and (c) are not each single bonds. If bond (b) is a single bond, then R<sub>1</sub> is a not a hydrogen, or R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are not each not a hydrogen; or R<sub>4</sub> is not a methyl group; or X is not =O; or Y is not =S; bond (a) is not a double bond or bond (c) is not a single bond. If bond (c) is a single bond, then R<sub>1</sub> is a not a hydrogen, or R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are not each not a hydrogen; or R<sub>4</sub> is not a methyl group; or X is not =O; or Y is not =S; bond (a) is not a double bond or bond (b) is not a single bond.

In a tenth aspect, the invention features a method for treating a condition in a subject, involving the steps of administering a chemical compound having the formula:



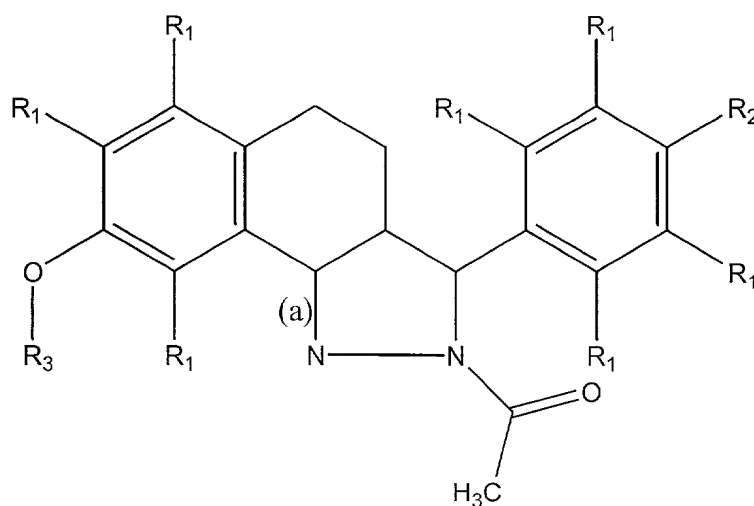
to the subject, in a dosage sufficient to decrease necrosis, wherein each of X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> is independently selected from the group consisting of =O, -OH and -H; R<sub>1</sub> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and a hydroxyl; R<sub>2</sub> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, sulfate, nitro, and halide; and the bond (a) is either a single or double bond.

In a preferred embodiment of the tenth aspect of the invention, in the compound each of X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> is =O; R<sub>1</sub> is a hydroxyl group; R<sub>2</sub> is a nitro group; and the bond (a) is a double bond.

In other embodiments of the tenth aspect of the invention, if X<sub>1</sub> is =O, then X<sub>2</sub> is not =O; or R<sub>1</sub> is not a hydroxyl group; or R<sub>2</sub> is not a nitro group; or the bond (a) is not a double bond. If X<sub>2</sub> is =O, then X<sub>1</sub> is not =O; or R<sub>1</sub> is not a hydroxyl group; or R<sub>2</sub> is not a nitro group; or the bond (a) is not a double bond. If R<sub>1</sub> is a hydroxyl group, then each of X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> are not =O; or R<sub>2</sub> is not a nitro group; or the bond (a) is not a double bond. If R<sub>2</sub> is a nitro group, then each of X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> are not =O; or R<sub>1</sub> is not a hydroxyl group; or the bond (a) is not a double

bond. If the bond (a) is a double bond, then each of  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  are not  $=O$ ; or  $R_1$  is not a hydroxyl group; or  $R_2$  is not a nitro group; or the bond (a) is not a double bond.

In an eleventh aspect, the invention features a method for treating a  
5 condition in a subject, involving the steps of administering a chemical compound having the formula:



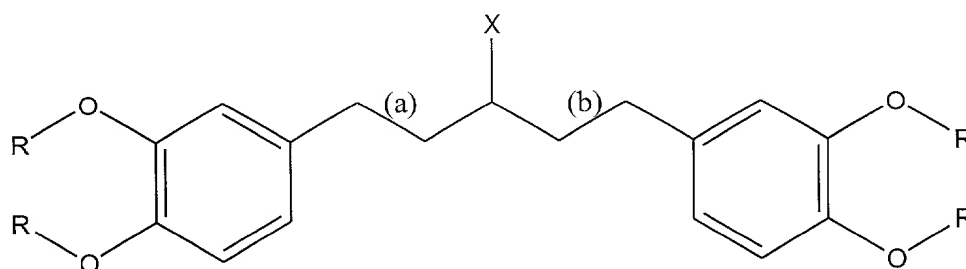
to the subject, in a dosage sufficient to decrease necrosis, wherein each  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, amino, halide, and hydroxyl;  $R_3$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and methyl; and the  
10 bond (a) is either a single or double bond.

In a preferred embodiment of the eleventh aspect of the invention, in the compound each  $R_1$  is hydrogen;  $R_2$  is fluorine;  $R_3$  is a methyl group; and the bond (a) is a double bond.



In other embodiments of the eleventh aspect of the invention, if  $R_1$  is a hydrogen, then  $R_2$  is not fluorine; or  $R_3$  is not a methyl group; or the bond (a) is not a double bond. If  $R_2$  is a fluorine, then  $R_1$  is not hydrogen; or  $R_3$  is not a methyl group; or the bond (a) is not a double bond. If  $R_3$  is a methyl group, then  $R_1$  is not hydrogen, or  $R_2$  is not fluorine; or the bond (a) is not a double bond. If the bond (a) is a double bond, then  $R_1$  is not hydrogen, or  $R_2$  is not fluorine; or  $R_3$  is not a methyl group.

In a twelfth aspect, the invention features a method for treating a condition in a subject, involving the steps of administering a chemical compound having the formula:



to the subject, in a dosage sufficient to decrease necrosis, wherein each  $R$  is independently selected from the group consisting of  $H$  or  $CH_3$ ; the bond (a) is either a single or double bond; the bond (b) is either a single or double bond; and  $X$  is selected from the group consisting of  $=O$ ,  $-OH$  and  $-H$ .

In a preferred embodiment of the twelfth aspect of the invention, in the compound each  $R$  is  $CH_3$ ; the (a) and (b) bonds are each a double bond; and  $X$  is  $=O$ .

In other embodiments of the twelfth aspect of the invention, if each R is CH<sub>3</sub>, then the bonds (a) and (b) are not each a double bond; or X is not =O. If the double bond (a) is a double bond, then each R is not CH<sub>3</sub>; or the bond (b) is not a double bond; or X is not =O. If the bond (b) is a double bond, then each R is not CH<sub>3</sub>; or the bond (a) is not a double bond; or X is not =O. If X is =O, then R is not CH<sub>3</sub>, or the bonds (a) and (b) are not each a double bond.

In a preferred embodiment of any of the ninth, tenth, eleventh, or twelfth aspects of the invention, the condition is a neurodegenerative disease.

Most preferably the neurodegenerative disease is selected from the group  
10 consisting of Alzheimer's disease, Huntington's disease, cerebral ischemia, stroke,  
amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, multiple sclerosis, Lewy body disease, Menkes,  
disease, Wilson disease, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, and Fahr disease. In other  
preferred embodiments, the condition is ischemic brain or heart injury, or head  
trauma. In another preferred embodiment, the subject is a mammal, such as a  
15 human or a rodent.

In a thirteenth aspect, the invention features a method for identifying a compound that decreases necrosis, involving the steps of: providing a cell in which apoptosis is prevented; contacting the cell with a first compound that causes a cell to undergo necrosis; contacting the cell with a second compound; and measuring  
20 necrosis relative to a control cell, wherein a decrease in necrosis indicates that the second compound decreases necrosis.

In a preferred embodiment of the thirteenth aspect of the invention, apoptosis is prevented by contacting the cell with zVAD-fmk. In another preferred embodiment, the first compound is TNF $\alpha$  or DMSO.

It will be appreciated that any of the R, X, or Y groups of the compounds of the invention, or of the compounds used in any method of the invention may be alkyl derivatives or contain alkyl linkers.

As used herein, by “decreasing necrosis” is meant reducing the number of cells which undergo necrosis relative to a control cell, receiving a cell death stimulus, such as TNF $\alpha$ /zVAD-fmk or DMSO/zVAD-fmk without a candidate small molecule inhibitor. Preferably necrosis is decreased 10% relative to a control. More preferably necrosis is decreased 50% relative to a control. Most preferably necrosis is decreased 90% relative to a control. Preferably a decrease in necrosis is tested by determining the ATP level in a cell which has received a test compound, such as a compound from a chemical library, and comparing it to the ATP level in a control cell. Necrosis is decreased in a cell treated with a test compound in which the ATP level does not decrease as much as it does in the control cell.

By “test compound” is meant a chemical, be it naturally-occurring or artificially-derived, that is surveyed for its ability to modulate the level of necrosis by employing one of the assay methods described herein. Test compounds may include, for example, peptides, polypeptides, synthesized organic molecules, naturally occurring organic molecules, nucleic acid molecules, and components thereof.

By “cell death” is meant the death of a cell by either apoptosis or necrosis.

As used herein, by “necrosis” is meant caspase-independent cell death characterized by cellular ATP depletion. Preferably the cell is depleted of ATP 10% relative to a control cell, receiving vehicle only (for example, DMSO). More preferably, the cell is depleted of ATP 50% relative to a control cell. Most

preferably, the cell is depleted of ATP 90% relative to a control cell. Preferably, necrosis is tested by determining the ATP level in a cell which has received a compound, for example, zVAD-fmk, DMSO, or TNF $\alpha$ , and comparing it to the ATP level in a cell receiving vehicle only. Necrosis occurs in a cell treated with a test compound in which the ATP level decreases relative to the control cell.

Necrosis may be liquifactive, may affect adipose or hepatic tissue, and may be caseous or fibrinoid. A cell may undergo necrosis in response to ischemic cell injury or viral infection.

By “caspase-independent cell death” is meant cell death that occurs when apoptosis is prevented. Apoptosis may be prevented by contacting a cell with a caspase inhibitor such as zVAD-fmk at a concentration sufficient enough that the cell survives when stimulated to undergo apoptosis, for example, by treatment with an apoptosis-promoting drug or ionizing radiation.

By “apoptosis” is meant cell death characterized by any of the following  
15 properties: nuclear condensation, DNA fragmentation, membrane blebbing, or cell shrinkage.

By “modulation of intracellular signaling pathways mediated by  $\text{TNF}\alpha$ ” is meant a change in the communication between components of a cell in response to contacting the cell with  $\text{TNF}\alpha$ . The change may be in the way or duration in which proteins within the cell interact, or the way or duration in which proteins are altered, such as by phosphorylation or dephosphorylation, or in the way or duration in which proteins interact with DNA.

By “modulation of intracellular signaling pathways mediated by DMSO” is meant a change in the communication between components of a cell in response to contacting the cell with DMSO. The change may be in the way or

duration in which proteins within the cell interact, or the way or duration in which proteins are altered, such as by phosphorylation or dephosphorylation, or in the way or duration in which proteins interact with DNA.

By “treating” is meant to submit or subject an animal, cell, lysate or  
5 extract derived from a cell, or a molecule derived from a cell to a test compound that decreases necrosis.

By “condition” is meant a state of being or feeling. Conditions include, but are not limited to, neurodegenerative disease, stroke, liver disease, pancreatic disease, ischemic brain or heart injury or other ischemic injuries, head trauma, a  
10 necrotic ulceration, septic shock, coronary heart disease, gastrointestinal disease, tuberculosis, alteration of blood vessels, viral infection (e.g., HIV infection or AIDS), or conditions associated with HIV infection or AIDS.

By “neurodegenerative disease” is meant a disease characterized by neuronal cell death. Examples of neurodegenerative diseases include, but are not  
15 limited to, Alzheimer’s disease, Huntington’s disease and related polyglutamine expansion diseases, cerebral ischemia, stroke, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, multiple sclerosis, Lewy body disease, Menkes disease, Wilson disease, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, and Fahr disease.

By “neuron” is meant a cell of ectodermal embryonic origin derived  
20 from any part of the nervous system of an animal. Neurons express well-characterized neuron-specific markers which include neurofilament proteins, MAP2, and class III  $\beta$ -tubulin. Included as neurons are, for example, hippocampal, cortical, midbrain dopaminergic, motor, sensory, sympathetic, septal cholinergic, and cerebellar neurons.



trauma, septic shock, coronary heart disease, gastrointestinal disease, tuberculosis, alteration of blood vessels, viral infection, such as HIV or AIDS, or conditions associated with a viral infection such as HIV or AIDS.

Other features and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following detailed description and from the claims.

### Brief Description of the Drawings

Fig. 1 is a schematic representation of the chemical structure of a molecule which may be used to decrease necrosis. In this chemical structure each  $R_1$  is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl, carboxy, hydroxyl, methoxyl, amino, and nitro;  $R_2$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, and acyl;  $R_3$  is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, acyl, halogen, hydrogen, or hydroxyl;  $R_4$  is selected from the group consisting of methyl, hydroxyl, carboxyl, and linear and branching alkyl groups; X is selected from the group consisting of =O, -OH and -H; Y is selected from the group consisting of =S and -SR<sub>5</sub>, where R<sub>5</sub> is either hydrogen or an alkyl group; and each of the bonds (a), (b), and (c) independently is either a double or single bond, provided, however, that bond (a) and bond (b) are not both double bonds.

Fig. 2 is a schematic representation of the chemical structure of chemical compound ID number 115807 from the ChemBridge chemical compound library.

Fig. 3 is a schematic representation of the chemical structure of a molecule which may be used to decrease necrosis. In this chemical structure, each of X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> is independently selected from the group consisting of =O, -OH and

-H;  $R_1$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and a hydroxyl;  $R_2$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, sulfate, nitro, and halide; and the bond (a) is either a single or double bond.

Fig. 4 is a schematic representation of the chemical structure of chemical compound ID number 115681 from the ChemBridge chemical compound library.

Fig. 5 is a schematic representation of the chemical structure of a molecule which may be used to decrease necrosis. In this chemical structure each  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, amino, halide, and hydroxyl;  $R_3$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and methyl; and the bond (a) is either a single or double bond.

Fig. 6 is a schematic representation of the chemical structure of chemical compound ID number 210227 from the ChemBridge chemical compound library.

Fig. 7 is a schematic representation of the chemical structure of a molecule which may be used to decrease necrosis. In this chemical structure each  $R$  is independently selected from the group consisting of H or  $CH_3$ ; the bond (a) is either a single or double bond; the bond (b) is either a single or double bond; and  $X$  is selected from the group consisting of  $=O$ ,  $-OH$  and  $-H$ .

Fig. 8 is a schematic representation of the chemical structure of chemical compound ID number 215686 from the ChemBridge chemical compound library.

#### Detailed Description of the Invention

Described herein are methods for decreasing necrosis, as well as for



treating a condition in a subject. Techniques for carrying out the methods of the invention are now described in detail.

#### Identification of Chemical Compounds that Decrease Cell Necrosis

Assays that measure cell necrosis may be used to facilitate the identification of molecules that decrease necrosis induced by stimuli, such as zVAD-fmk/TNF $\alpha$ . In one approach, zVAD-fmk is added to the culture media of cells at high density (for example,  $5 \times 10^5$  or  $7.5 \times 10^5$  cells/ml), which are capable of undergoing necrosis in response to zVAD-fmk/TNF $\alpha$ . Candidate molecules, for example, chemical compounds from the ChemBridge chemical library are added, in varying concentrations to the cells, and the cells are then exposed to TNF $\alpha$ .

The occurrence of necrosis of the treated cells is then measured, for example, by measuring the cellular ATP level of the cells exposed to zVAD-fmk/TNF $\alpha$  (Crouch et al. J. Immunol. Methods 160:81-8, 1993; Storer et al. Mutat. Res. 368:59-101, 1996; and Cree et al. Toxicol. *In Vitro* 11:553-556, 1997). The level of necrosis in the presence of the candidate molecule is compared to the level of necrosis in the absence of the candidate molecule, all other factors (e.g., cell type and culture conditions) being equal. The importance of zVAD-fmk in the invention is to block cell death that may occur by apoptosis, so that cell death by necrosis can be fully unmasked.

In a second approach, a cell may be exposed to a candidate molecule that decreases necrosis at the same time it is exposed to either zVAD-fmk or TNF $\alpha$ . In a third approach, a cell may be exposed to zVAD-fmk and TNF $\alpha$  first, and then to a candidate compound. The level of necrosis that occurs following each of these approaches is measured as described above.

The effect of candidate molecules on necrosis induced by cell death stimuli, for example, zVAD-fmk/TNF $\alpha$  or zVAD-fmk/DMSO, may also be measured by other methods, for example, vital dye staining, using dyes such as trypan blue or acridine orange/ethidium bromide.

5           Compounds that decrease necrosis may be purified or substantially purified, or may be one component of a mixture of compounds, such as a pool of chemical compounds. In an assay of a mixture of compounds, the occurrence of necrosis is tested against progressively smaller subsets of the compound pool (e.g., produced by standard purification techniques such as HPLC or FPLC) until a  
10   single compound or minimal number of effective compounds is demonstrated to decrease necrosis. A molecule that promotes a decrease in necrosis induced by zVAD-fmk/TNF $\alpha$  is considered particularly useful in the invention; such a molecule may be used, for example, as a therapeutic to decrease necrosis, in a patient with a condition in which necrosis occurs, such as a neurodegenerative disease.

15           Chemical compounds that are found, by the methods described above, to effectively decrease necrosis induced, for example, by zVAD-fmk/TNF $\alpha$  in an *in vitro* system may be tested further in animal models. Particularly useful animal models include mouse and rat models of cell death, ischemic brain or heart injury or other ischemic injuries, head trauma, neurodegenerative diseases, coronary heart  
20   disease, and septic shock. Examples of such models include SOD or Huntington's disease gene transgenic mice, and other known models, such as those described by Li et al. (Hum. Mol. Genet. 8:1227-12236, 1999), Levine et al. (Neurosci. Res. 58:515-532, 1999), Vukosavic et al. (J. Neurochem. 73:2460-2468, 1999), Gruney (J. Neurol. Sci. 152 suppl. 1:S67-73, 1997), Deshmukh et al. (Am. J. Physiol. 273  
25   (4 Pt 1):C1130-1135, 1997), and Isibashi et al. (J. Immunol. 163:5666-5677,

1999). Compounds which demonstrate an ability to decrease necrosis in *in vivo* models may be used as therapeutics to prevent necrosis, as appropriate.

### Identification of Chemical Compounds that Decrease zVAD-fmk/DMSO

#### Induced Cell Necrosis

- 5                   Methods for the identification of chemical compounds that decrease cell necrosis induced, for example, by zVAD-fmk/DMSO at a low cell density (e.g.,  $1 \times 10^5$  cells/ml) is achieved essentially as described above, except, the inducer of necrosis is zVAD-fmk/DMSO, rather than zVAD-fmk/TNF $\alpha$ .

### Structural Derivatives of Chemical Compounds that Decrease Necrosis

- 10                   The small molecules identified to decrease necrosis may be structurally modified and subsequently used to decrease necrosis, or to treat a subject with a condition in which necrosis occurs. For example, the small molecules may be modified by any of the following processes: reduction of aliphatic double bonds; reduction of aliphatic ketones; substitution of nitro groups with protons, halides, or
- 15 sulfates; reduction of C=O double bonds in flavone rings; elimination of oxygens attached to flavone rings; substitution of methoxyl groups with hydroxyl groups; attachment of hydroxyl and amino groups to benzyl rings; reduction of C=N double bonds; elimination of a fluoride or its substitution with a hydroxyl or other halide group; substitution of a hydrogen with an alkyl group; introduction of
- 20 hydroxyl, methoxyl, amino, and nitro groups into the benzyl ring; reduction of the double bond in the position 2 of the indol; introduction of double bonds in the linker between indol and hydantoin moieties; reduction or alkylation of the thiourea moiety; reduction, alkylation, or acylation of the indol amino group;

substitution of the hydantoin 3-methyl group with linear and branching alkyl groups of varying length, and with hydroxyl, methyl, or carboxyl functionalities; and reduction of the hydantoin ketone moiety.

The chemical compounds that decrease necrosis may be modified by one of the above processes or various combinations of the above processes. The methods used to generate structural derivatives of the small molecules that decrease necrosis are readily known to those skilled in the fields of organic and medicinal chemistry.

### Therapy

A compound identified as capable of decreasing necrosis, using any of the methods described herein, may be administered to patients or animals with a pharmaceutically-acceptable diluent, carrier, or excipient, in unit dosage form. The chemical compounds for use in such therapies may be produced and isolated by any standard technique known to those in the field of medicinal chemistry.

Conventional pharmaceutical practice may be employed to provide suitable formulations or compositions to administer the identified compound to patients suffering from a disease in which necrosis occurs. Administration may begin before the patient is symptomatic.

Any appropriate route of administration may be employed. For example, the therapy may be administered either directly to the site of a predicted cell death event (for example, by injection) or systemically (for example, by any conventional administration technique). Administration of the compound may also be parenteral, intravenous, intraarterial, subcutaneous, intramuscular, intracranial, intraorbital, ophthalmic, intraventricular, intracapsular, intraspinal, intracisternal,

intraperitoneal, intranasal, aerosol, by suppositories, or oral administration.

Therapeutic formulations may be in the form of liquid solutions or suspensions; for oral administration, formulations may be in the form of tablets or capsules; and for intranasal formulations, in the form of powders, nasal drops, or aerosols. The dosage of the therapeutic compounds in a pharmaceutically-acceptable formulation depends on a number of factors, including the size and health of the individual patient. The dosage to deliver may be determined by one skilled in the art.

Methods well known in the art for making formulations are found, for example, in "Remington: The Science and Practice of Pharmacy" ((19th ed.) ed. A.R. Gennaro AR., 1995, Mack Publishing Company, Easton, PA). Formulations for parenteral administration may, for example, contain excipients, sterile water, or saline, polyalkylene glycols such as polyethylene glycol, oils of vegetable origin, or hydrogenated naphthalenes. Biocompatible, biodegradable lactide polymer, lactide/glycolide copolymer, or polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene copolymers may be used to control the release of the compounds. Other potentially useful parenteral delivery systems for compounds that decreases necrosis include ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer particles, osmotic pumps, implantable infusion systems, and liposomes. Formulations for inhalation may contain excipients, for example, lactose, or may be aqueous solutions containing, for example, polyoxyethylene-9-lauryl ether, glycocholate and deoxycholate, or may be oily solutions for administration in the form of nasal drops, or as a gel.

The methods and compounds of the present invention may be used to treat a number of diseases, as described above. Such methods and compounds may be particularly useful in treating ischemic brain or heart injury or head trauma. These diseases would be excellent targets of such therapies, as necrosis

occurs in them.

If desired, treatment with a compound identified according to the methods described above, may be combined with more traditional therapies for a disease characterized by cell death, such as tacrine hydrochloride for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease, or interferon  $\beta$ -1a for the treatment of multiple sclerosis.

#### Preventative Anti-Necrosis Therapy

In a patient diagnosed with a heart disease (e.g., coronary heart disease or ischemic heart injury) or degenerative disease (e.g., a neurodegenerative disease, such as Alzheimer's disease or Huntington's disease), any of the above therapies may be administered before the occurrence of the disease phenotype. In particular, compounds shown to decrease necrosis may be administered by any standard dosage and route of administration (as described above).

The methods of the instant invention may be used to decrease necrosis of a cell or to treat disorders described herein in any mammal, for example, humans, domestic pets, or livestock.

The following examples are provided to illustrate the invention. These examples should not be construed as limiting.

#### Example 1

##### **Cells Undergo Necrosis in Response to zVAD-fmk and TNF $\alpha$**

The cell lines U-937 and BALB/c 3T3 were assayed for the occurrence of necrosis in response to the combined treatment of zVAD-fmk, a caspase inhibitor, and TNF $\alpha$ , a cell death stimulator. The cells ( $5 \times 10^5$  cells/ml) were exposed to zVAD-fmk (100  $\mu$ M) and human TNF $\alpha$  (40 ng/ml) for 72 hours.

Induction of necrosis was assayed by measuring the cellular ATP levels in response to TNF $\alpha$  (Crouch et al., supra, Storer et al. supra, and Cree et al. supra). Cells which underwent necrosis exhibited decreased cellular ATP levels relative to controls cells which received no treatment, zVAD-fmk (100  $\mu$ M) alone, or human TNF $\alpha$  (40 ng/ml) alone. It was found that the cells underwent necrosis in response to treatment with zVAD-fmk and TNF $\alpha$ . The cells were also observed morphologically for the occurrence of apoptosis or necrosis, for example, by analyzing the cells for membrane blebbing and nuclear condensation.

### Example 2

#### 10 **Identification of Small Molecules that Decrease Necrosis**

The U-937 cell line was used to screen a library of 16,000 small molecule chemical compounds for a compound's ability to decrease necrosis induced by exposure of the cell to zVAD-fmk and TNF $\alpha$ . The library of chemical compounds used in this screen were from ChemBridge (ChemBridge Corporation, San Diego CA).

In a primary screen, U-937 cells ( $5 \times 10^5$  or  $7.5 \times 10^5$  cells/ml) were first exposed to zVAD-fmk (100  $\mu$ M). Thirty minutes later the same cells were exposed to a chemical compound from the library (5 mg/ml, dissolved in 0.1-0.5  $\mu$ l of DMSO, giving a final DMSO concentration of 0.3% to 1.5%). After an additional thirty minutes, TNF $\alpha$  (40 ng/ml) was added to the cell culture medium. The cells were then incubated at 37°C for 72 hours, and were then assayed for cellular ATP levels. Compounds which did not prevent a decrease in cellular ATP levels were compounds which did not prevent necrosis in response to treatment of the cell with zVAD-fmk and TNF $\alpha$ . Compounds which maintained cellular ATP

levels were compounds which blocked necrosis triggered by zVAD-fmk and TNF $\alpha$ .

As a result of the primary screen, 50 chemical compounds from the library were identified to decrease necrosis induced by zVAD-fmk and TNF $\alpha$ . These compounds were selected for a second round of screening for compounds that decrease necrosis induced by zVAD-fmk and TNF $\alpha$ .

In a secondary screen, the compounds identified from the first screen, above, to decrease necrosis induced by zVAD-fmk and TNF $\alpha$  were assayed for their potency. Serial dilution of each chemical compound was performed and the compounds were administered to U-937 cells, as per the primary screen. The concentrations of each compound were 70  $\mu$ M, 23  $\mu$ M, 8  $\mu$ M, and 2.5  $\mu$ M. The level of necrosis occurring in response to zVAD-fmk, TNF $\alpha$ , and the various concentrations of chemical compounds was assayed as described above for the primary screen.

As a result of the secondary screen, four chemical compounds from the ChemBridge library: 115807, 115681, 210227, and 215686 were identified to decrease necrosis in response to exposure of the cell to zVAD-fmk and TNF $\alpha$ .

### Example 3

#### **Cells Are Protected From Necrosis Upon Exposure to zVAD-fmk and DMSO**

Exposure of low density U-937 cells ( $1 \times 10^5$  cells/ml) to zVAD-fmk (100  $\mu$ M) and DMSO (0.5%) for 72 hours results in cell death by necrosis. The compounds identified to decrease cell necrosis triggered by zVAD-fmk and TNF $\alpha$ , compounds 115807, 115681, 210227, and 215686 from the ChemBridge chemical library, were also evaluated for their ability to decrease cell necrosis induced by zVAD-fmk and DMSO. The cells ( $1 \times 10^5$  cells/ml) were first exposed to zVAD-



fmk, and then thirty minutes later to the above-identified small molecules that decrease necrosis. After an additional 30 minutes, the cells were exposed to DMSO. Seventy-two hours after exposure to the compounds, cellular ATP levels were measured, as described above. All four chemical compounds that decreased necrosis induced by zVAD-fmk/ TNF $\alpha$  also decreased necrosis induced by zVAD-fmk/DMSO.

#### Example 4

##### **The Role of Fas-associated Death Domain Protein in zVAD-fmk/TNF $\alpha$ - or zVAD-fmk/DMSO-induced Necrosis**

A cell expressing a dominant negative form of the protein Fas-associated death domain (FADD) can also prevent a cell from undergoing necrosis in response to treatment with zVAD-fmk/TNF $\alpha$ - or zVAD-fmk/DMSO. Jurkat cells were stably transfected with a FADD-FKBP fusion construct (Kawahara A. et al. J. Cell Biol. 143(5):1353-60, 1998). Normally such cells undergo apoptosis when FADD is multimerized. However, these cells, in the presence of the caspase inhibitor zVAD-fmk, are protected from apoptosis, and instead undergo necrosis, thus establishing the dependence of apoptosis in this system on caspase activity and induction of necrosis in the absence of caspases.

The stably transfected Jurkat cells (500,000 cells/ml) were treated with 100 nM of FKBP dimerizer (Arraid Pharmaceuticals; used to stimulate FADD multimerization) in the presence of 100  $\mu$ M of zVAD-fmk (pre-treated for 1 hour) and compounds from the library identified to decrease necrosis (dissolved in DMSO to give a final DMSO concentration of 0.5 %; added 30 minutes after zVAD-fmk) for 48 hours. Cell viability was then assessed by measuring cellular

ATP levels. The small molecules provided protection from necrosis induced in the presence of zVAD-fmk, but not from apoptosis induced by FADD dimerization in the absence of zVAD-fmk. These results indicate that FADD may be involved in mediating necrosis in response to zVAD-fmk/TNF $\alpha$ - or zVAD-fmk/DMSO. It is possible that the small molecules that decrease necrosis may function by interacting with FADD and disrupting FADD's normal function of promoting necrosis upon treatment of a cell with zVAD-fmk/TNF $\alpha$ - or zVAD-fmk/DMSO.

#### Example 5

#### **Identification of Intracellular Targets of Small Molecules that Decrease**

#### **Necrosis**

Molecules within a cell that interact with the small molecule compounds that decrease necrosis can be identified using a number of different strategies. Each strategy involves detecting interactions between various proteins from a cell and a small molecule that decreases necrosis, identified according to the methods described above. To identify proteins that interact with a small molecule that decreases necrosis, the small molecule may be bound to a bead, using methods known to those skilled in the art. Each strategy should be carried out using proteins from cells which have been exposed to zVAD-fmk/TNF $\alpha$ - or zVAD-fmk/DMSO.

In one strategy, the signaling complex containing FADD, among other proteins, may be immunoprecipitated, using standard techniques known to those skilled in the art. This complex may then be added to the beads containing the desired small molecule compound that decreases necrosis. Proteins that interact with the small molecule that decreases necrosis may be identified by Western blot

detection of proteins contained in the complex, or other techniques known to those skilled in the field of molecular biology. Any detected binding interactions indicate that the target of the small molecule that decreases necrosis is present in the immunoprecipitated FADD complex.

5           In a second strategy for identifying targets of a small molecule that decreases necrosis, a cell may be fractionated, and the various fractionated pools may be assayed for interaction with the chemical compound using standard molecular biology techniques. A pool of proteins which interacts with the small molecule that decreases necrosis indicates that the pool contains a protein that is a  
10       target of the small molecule that decreases necrosis. The target of the small molecule that decreases necrosis may be isolated using techniques known to those skilled in the art.

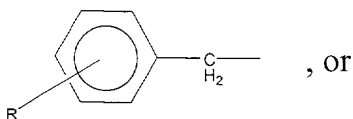
          A third strategy involves small pool expression screening systems. Targets of a small molecule that decreases necrosis can be identified from any cell  
15       in which the small molecule protects cells from necrosis triggered by zVAD-fmk/TNF $\alpha$ - or zVAD-fmk/DMSO. This method for identifying targets of small molecules that decrease necrosis can be done, for example, according to the methods of Lustig et al. (Methods in Enzymology 283:83-99, 1997). In this method a cDNA library is made from a desired cell line, or any other desired  
20       source. The cDNA library is then divided into pools of 100 clones, and the cDNAs are transcribed and translated to form proteins pools for the detection of interactions between a protein and a small molecule that decreases necrosis. Interactions between the small molecules that decrease necrosis and pools of library proteins can be detected using standard molecular biology techniques, for  
25       example, SDS-PAGE.

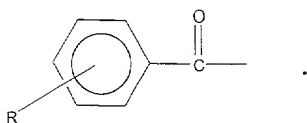
### Example 6

#### Structural Derivatives of Small Molecules that Decrease Necrosis

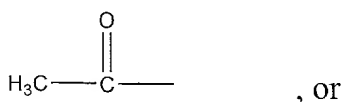
The following modifications of the small molecules that decrease necrosis may be made and evaluated for their efficacy in decreasing necrosis, for example, that induced by zVAD-fmk/TNF $\alpha$  or zVAD-fmk/DMSO.

The chemical compound 115807 may be modified by the introduction of a hydroxyl, methyl, carboxy, methoxyl, amino or nitro group into the benzyl ring (for example, at any or all of the R<sub>1</sub> positions of Fig. 1). Double bonds may be introduced in the linker between indol and hydantoin moieties (for example, in Fig. 1, bonds (a), (b), or (c) may be double bonds, provided that not both bonds (a) and (b) are double bonds). The thiourea moiety may be reduced or alkylated (for example, the moiety may be -SH or SR<sub>5</sub>, wherein R<sub>5</sub> is an alkyl group). The indol amino group may be reduced, alkylated, or acylated (for example, in Fig. 1, R<sub>2</sub> may be CH<sub>3</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>, where n is between 1 and 4 and, HOOC-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>, where n is between 1 and 4,

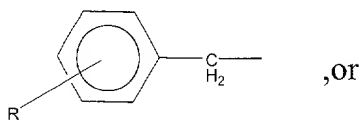




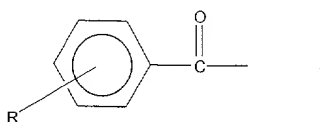
In addition, the hydantoin 3-methyl group may be substituted with linear or branching alkyl groups of varying length, and with hydroxyl, methyl, or acyl functionalities (for example the following groups may be present at the R<sub>4</sub> position of Fig. 1; CH<sub>3</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub> where n is between 1 and 4, OH, or HOOC-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>, wherein n is between 1 and 4. In addition, the linker CH<sub>2</sub> group between the indol and hydantoin moieties can be alkylated, acylated, halogenated, or hydroxylated (for example, in Fig. 1, R<sub>4</sub> may be CH<sub>3</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>, where n is between 1 and 4, HOOC-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>, where n is between 1 and 4,



, or



,or



Lastly, the hydantoin ketone moiety may be reduced to a hydroxyl group or a hydrogen.

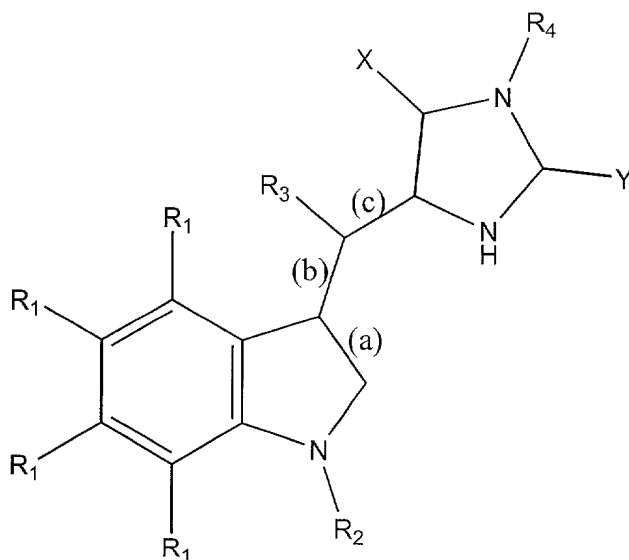
The chemical compound 210227 may be modified by the attachment of a halide, or hydroxyl or amino groups to either or both of the benzyl rings (for example, in the R<sub>1</sub> or R<sub>2</sub> positions of Fig. 5). The C=N double bond may be reduced, or the fluoride may be eliminated or substituted with a hydroxyl group or other halide.

The chemical compound 215686 may be modified by reducing the two central aliphatic double bonds, together, or each one individually. The ketone may also be reduced, or the methoxyl groups may be substituted with hydroxyl groups, each individually, or together.

The chemical compound 115681 may be modified in the following ways. The aliphatic double bond or the aliphatic ketone may be reduced. The nitro group may be substituted with a proton, halide, or sulfate. The C=O double bond in the flavone ring may be reduced. Either one or two of the oxygens attached to the flavone may also be eliminated.

What is claimed is:

1. A chemical compound in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, said compound having the formula:



wherein

each  $R_1$  is independently selected from the group consisting of  
hydrogen, methyl, carboxy, hydroxyl, methoxyl, amino, and nitro;

$R_2$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, and acyl;

$R_3$  is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, acyl, halogen,  
hydrogen, or hydroxyl;

$R_4$  is selected from the group consisting of methyl, hydroxyl, carboxyl,  
and linear and branching alkyl groups;

X is selected from the group consisting of =O, -OH and -H;

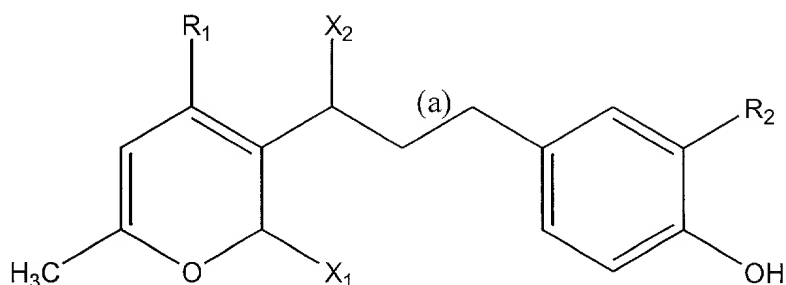
Y is selected from the group consisting of =S and -SR<sub>5</sub>, where R<sub>5</sub> is  
either hydrogen or an alkyl group; and

each of the bonds (a), (b), and (c) independently is either a double or





3. A compound in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, said compound having the formula:



wherein

each of  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  is independently selected from the group consisting of

$=O$ ,

$-OH$  and  $-H$ ;

$R_1$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and a hydroxyl;

$R_2$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, sulfate, nitro, and

halide; and

the bond (a) is either a single or double bond.

4. The compound of claim 3, wherein

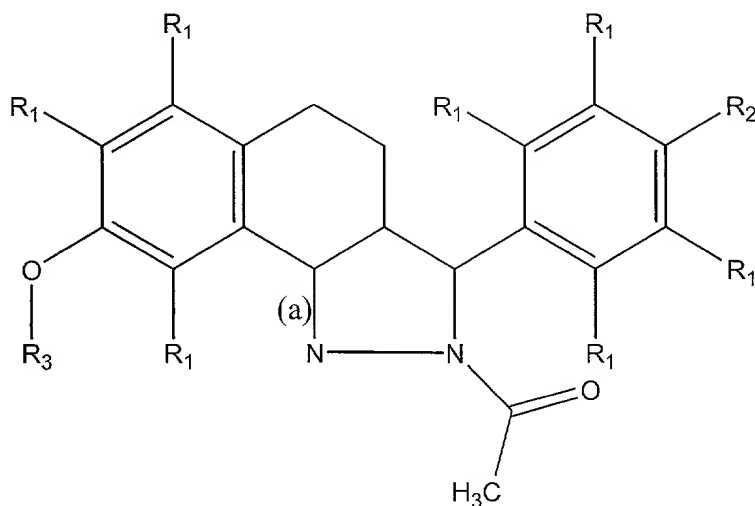
each of  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  is  $=O$ ;

$R_1$  is a hydroxyl group;

$R_2$  is a nitro group; and

the bond (a) is a double bond.

5. A chemical compound in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, said compound having the formula:



wherein

each  $R_1$  is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, amino, halide, and hydroxyl;

$R_2$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halide, and hydroxyl;

$R_3$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and methyl; and the bond (a) is either a single or double bond.

6. The compound of claim 5, wherein

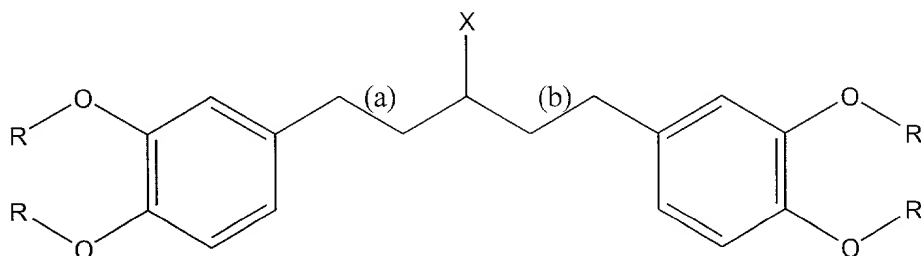
each  $R_1$  is hydrogen;

$R_2$  is fluorine;

$R_3$  is a methyl group; and

the bond (a) is a double bond.

7. A chemical compound in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, said compound having the formula:



wherein

each R is independently selected from the group consisting of H or CH<sub>3</sub>;

the bond (a) is either a single or double bond;

the bond (b) is either a single or double bond; and

X is selected from the group consisting of =O, -OH and -H.

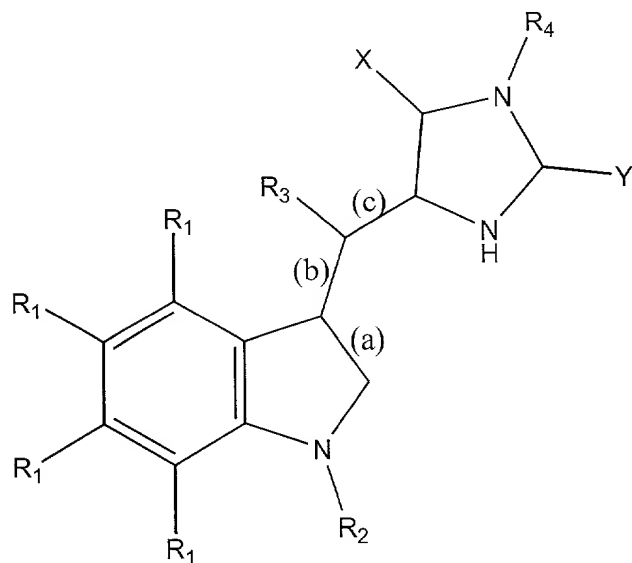
8. The compound of claim 7, wherein

each R is CH<sub>3</sub>;

the (a) and (b) bonds are each a double bond; and

X is =O.

9. A method for decreasing necrosis, said method comprising contacting a cell with a chemical compound, said compound having the formula:



wherein

each  $R_1$  is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl, carboxy, hydroxyl, methoxyl, amino, and nitro;

$R_2$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, and acyl;

$R_3$  is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, acyl, halogen, hydrogen, or hydroxyl;

$R_4$  is selected from the group consisting of methyl, hydroxyl, carboxyl, and linear and branching alkyl groups;

X is selected from the group consisting of =O, -OH and -H;

Y is selected from the group consisting of =S and -SR<sub>5</sub>, where R<sub>5</sub> is either hydrogen or an alkyl group; and

each of the bonds (a), (b), and (c) independently is either a double or

single bond, provided, however, that bond (a) and bond (b) are not both double bonds.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein in said compound each  $R_1$  is hydrogen;

5  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  are each hydrogen;

$R_4$  is a methyl group;

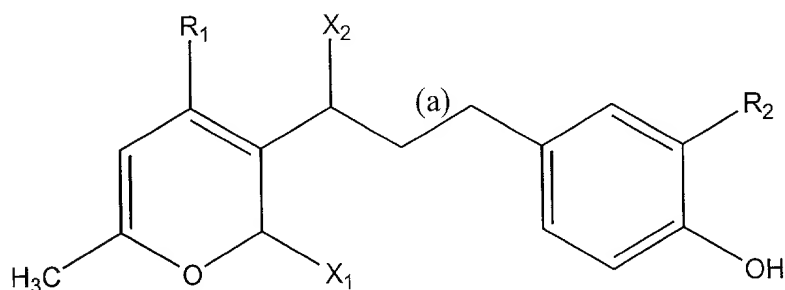
X is =O;

Y is =S;

bond (a) is a double bond; and

10 bonds (b) and (c) are each single bonds.

11. A method for decreasing necrosis, said method comprising contacting a cell with a chemical compound having the formula:



wherein

each of X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> is independently selected from the group consisting of

5 =O,

-OH and -H;

R<sub>1</sub> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and a hydroxyl;

R<sub>2</sub> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, sulfate, nitro, and

halide; and

10 the bond (a) is either a single or double bond.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein in said compound,

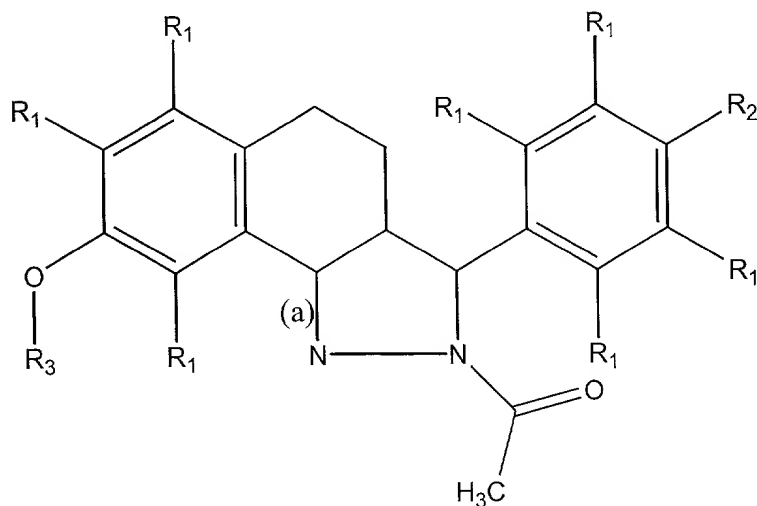
each of X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub> is =O;

R<sub>1</sub> is a hydroxyl group;

R<sub>2</sub> is a nitro group; and

15 the bond (a) is a double bond.

13. A method for decreasing necrosis, said method comprising contacting a cell with a chemical compound having the formula:



wherein

each R<sub>1</sub> is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, amino, halide, and hydroxyl;

R<sub>2</sub> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halide, and hydroxyl;

R<sub>3</sub> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and methyl; and the bond (a) is either a single or double bond.

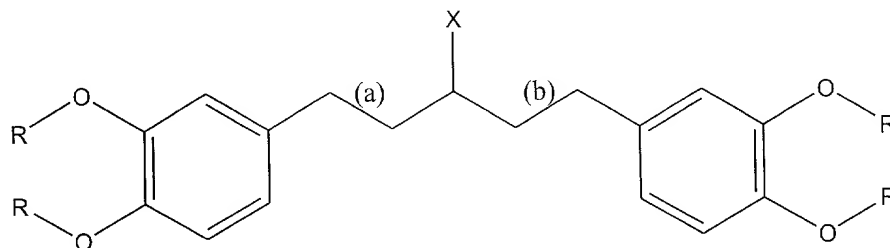
14. The method of claim 13, wherein in said compound each R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen;

R<sub>2</sub> is fluorine;

R<sub>3</sub> is a methyl group; and

the bond (a) is a double bond.

15. A method for decreasing necrosis, said method comprising contacting a cell with a chemical compound having the formula:



wherein

each R is independently selected from the group consisting of H or CH<sub>3</sub>;

the bond (a) is either a single or double bond;

the bond (b) is either a single or double bond; and

X is selected from the group consisting of =O, -OH and -H.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein in said compound

each R is CH<sub>3</sub>;

the (a) and (b) bonds are each a double bond; and

X is =O.

17. The method of any of claims 9, 11, 13, or 15, wherein said cell is capable of undergoing necrosis in the presence of zVAD-fmk and TNF $\alpha$ .



18. The method of any of claims 9, 11, 13, or 15, wherein said cell is capable of undergoing necrosis in the presence of zVAD-fmk and DMSO.

19. The method of any of claims 9, 11, 13, or 15, wherein said cell is mammalian.

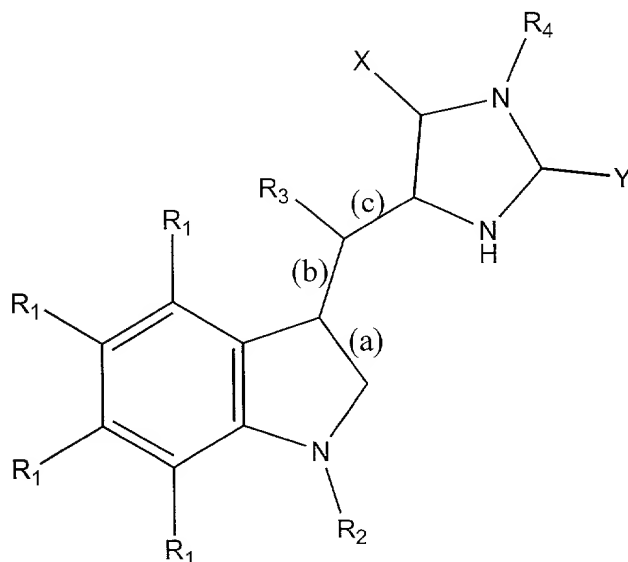
5           20. The method of claim 19, wherein said cell is human.

21. The method of claim 19, wherein said cell is a neuron.

22. The method of claim 19, wherein said cell is a rodent cell.

23. The method of any of claims 9, 11, 13, or 15, wherein said compound is in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

24. A method for treating a condition in a subject, said method comprising the steps of administering a chemical compound having the formula:



to said subject, in a dosage sufficient to decrease necrosis, wherein

each  $R_1$  is independently selected from the group consisting of

hydrogen, methyl, carboxy, hydroxyl, methoxyl, amino, and nitro;

$R_2$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, and acyl;

$R_3$  is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, acyl, halogen,

hydrogen, or hydroxyl;

$R_4$  is selected from the group consisting of methyl, hydroxyl, carboxyl,

and linear and branching alkyl groups;

X is selected from the group consisting of =O, -OH and -H;

Y is selected from the group consisting of =S and  $-SR_5$ , where  $R_5$  is

either hydrogen or an alkyl group; and

each of the bonds (a), (b), and (c) independently is either a double or single bond, provided, however, that bond (a) and bond (b) are not both double bonds.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein in said compound

5

each  $R_1$  is hydrogen;

$R_2$  and  $R_3$  are each hydrogen;

$R_4$  is a methyl group;

X is =O;

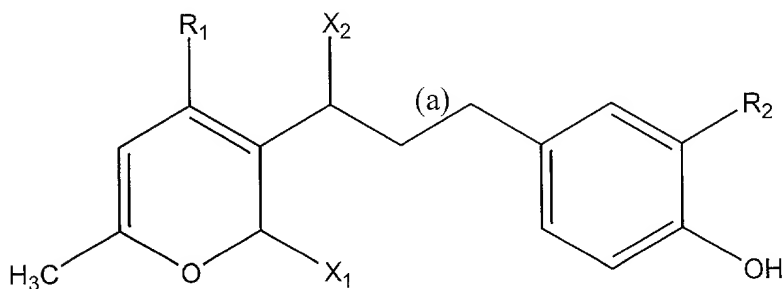
Y is =S;

10

bond (a) is a double bond; and

bonds (b) and (c) are each single bonds.

26. A method for treating a condition in a subject, said method comprising the steps of administering a chemical compound having the formula:



to said subject, in a dosage sufficient to decrease necrosis wherein

each of  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  is independently selected from the group consisting of

$=O$ ,

$-OH$  and  $-H$ ;

$R_1$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and a hydroxyl;

$R_2$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, sulfate, nitro, and

halide; and

the bond (a) is either a single or double bond.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein in said compound

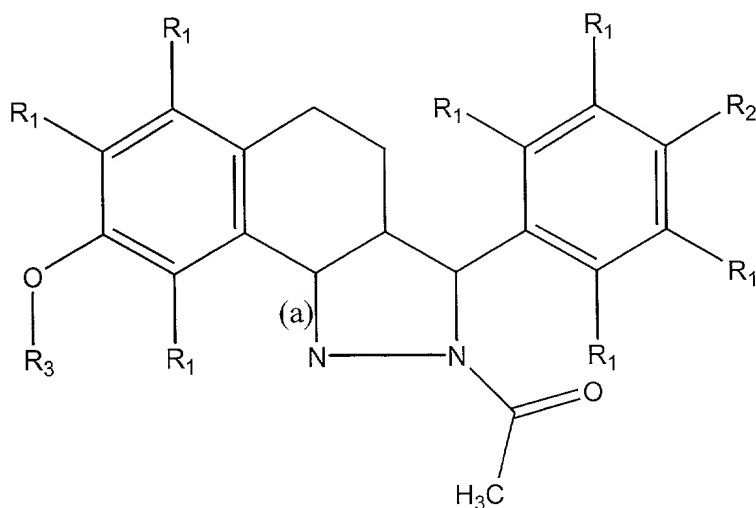
each of  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  is  $=O$ ;

$R_1$  is a hydroxyl group;

$R_2$  is a nitro group; and

the bond (a) is a double bond.

28. A method for treating a condition in a subject, said method comprising the steps of administering a chemical compound having the formula:



to said subject, in a dosage sufficient to decrease necrosis wherein

each R<sub>1</sub> is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, amino, halide, and hydroxyl;

R<sub>2</sub> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halide, and hydroxyl;

R<sub>3</sub> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and methyl; and the bond (a) is either a single or double bond.

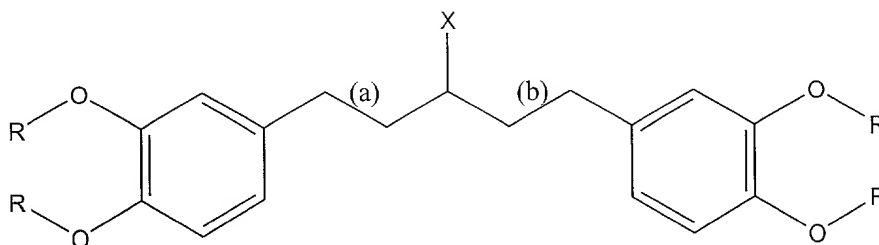
29. The compound of claim 28, wherein in said compound each R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen;

R<sub>2</sub> is fluorine;

R<sub>3</sub> is a methyl group; and

the bond (a) is a double bond.

30. A method for treating a condition in a subject, said method comprising the steps of administering a chemical compound having the formula:



to said subject, in a dosage sufficient to decrease necrosis wherein

each R is independently selected from the group consisting of H or CH<sub>3</sub>;

the bond (a) is either a single or double bond;

the bond (b) is either a single or double bond; and

X is selected from the group consisting of =O, -OH and -H.

31. The compound of claim 30, wherein in said compound

each R is CH<sub>3</sub>;

the (a) and (b) bonds are each a double bond; and

X is =O.

32. The method of any of claims 24, 26, 28, or 30, wherein said

condition is a neurodegenerative disease.

33. The method of claim 32, wherein said neurodegenerative disease is

selected from the group consisting of Alzheimer's disease, Huntington's disease,

cerebral ischemia, stroke, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, multiple sclerosis, Lewy body disease, Menkes, disease, Wilson disease, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, and Fahr disease.

34. The method of any of claims 24, 26, 28, or 30, wherein said  
5 condition is selected from the group consisting of ischemic brain injury, ischemic heart injury, and head trauma.

35. The method of any of claims 24, 26, 28, or 30, wherein said subject  
is a mammal.

36. The method of claim 35, wherein said subject is a human.

10 37. The method of claim 35, wherein said subject is a rodent.

38. A method for identifying a compound that decreases necrosis,  
comprising the steps of :

(a) providing a cell in which apoptosis is prevented;

15 (b) contacting said cell with a first compound that causes a cell to  
undergo necrosis;

(c) contacting said cell with a second compound; and

(d) measuring necrosis relative to a control cell,

wherein a decrease in necrosis indicates that said second compound decreases  
necrosis.

39. The method of claim 38, wherein said apoptosis is prevented by contacting said cell with zVAD-fmk.

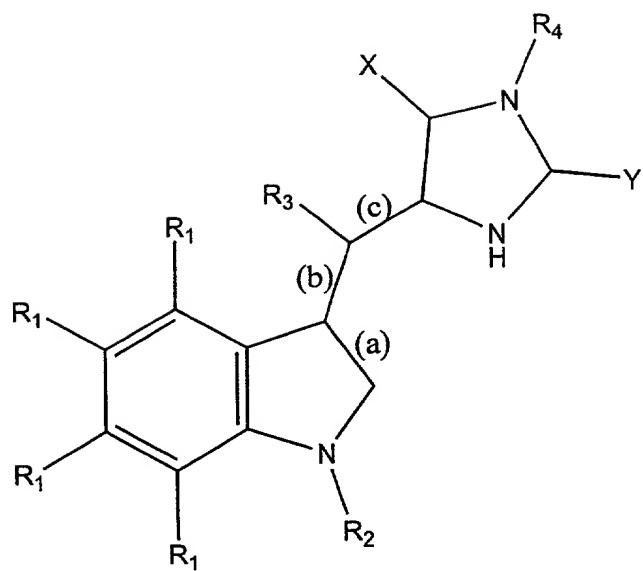
40. The method of claim 38, wherein said first compound is  $\text{TNF}\alpha$  or DMSO.

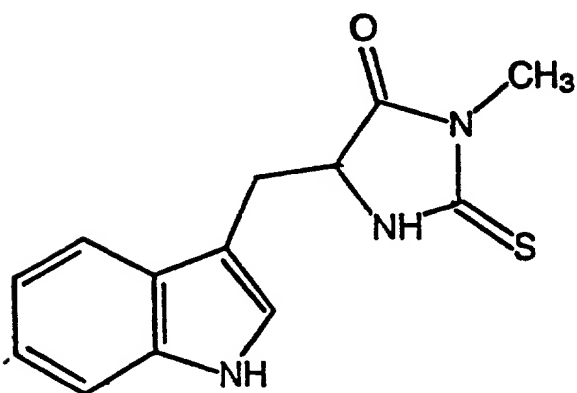


| Variable               | Mean | SD   | Min | Max |
|------------------------|------|------|-----|-----|
| Age                    | 35.2 | 12.5 | 18  | 65  |
| Gender                 | 0.5  | 0.5  | 0   | 1   |
| Marital status         | 0.6  | 0.5  | 0   | 1   |
| Education              | 12.5 | 2.5  | 9   | 16  |
| Income                 | 15.2 | 8.5  | 5   | 35  |
| Health status          | 0.8  | 0.4  | 0   | 1   |
| Smoking status         | 0.3  | 0.5  | 0   | 1   |
| Alcohol consumption    | 0.2  | 0.4  | 0   | 1   |
| Exercise frequency     | 0.5  | 0.5  | 0   | 1   |
| Stress level           | 4.5  | 1.5  | 1   | 7   |
| Sleep quality          | 3.2  | 1.2  | 1   | 5   |
| Work satisfaction      | 4.8  | 1.8  | 1   | 7   |
| Life satisfaction      | 5.5  | 2.0  | 1   | 7   |
| Depression score       | 2.1  | 1.5  | 0   | 5   |
| Anxiety score          | 1.8  | 1.2  | 0   | 4   |
| Resilience score       | 3.5  | 1.0  | 1   | 5   |
| Optimism score         | 4.2  | 1.5  | 1   | 7   |
| Gratitude score        | 4.5  | 1.8  | 1   | 7   |
| Self-esteem score      | 3.8  | 1.2  | 1   | 5   |
| Empathy score          | 4.0  | 1.5  | 1   | 7   |
| Prosocial behavior     | 4.3  | 1.8  | 1   | 7   |
| Life purpose           | 4.6  | 1.5  | 1   | 7   |
| Meaning in life        | 4.9  | 1.8  | 1   | 7   |
| Existential well-being | 5.2  | 2.0  | 1   | 7   |
| Overall well-being     | 5.8  | 2.2  | 1   | 7   |

The invention features methods for decreasing necrosis. The invention also features methods for treating a subject with a condition in which necrosis occurs. The invention further features chemical compounds used to decrease necrosis.

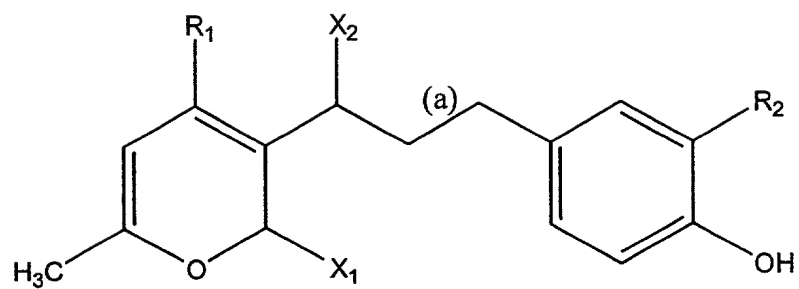
Fig. 1





**Fig. 2**

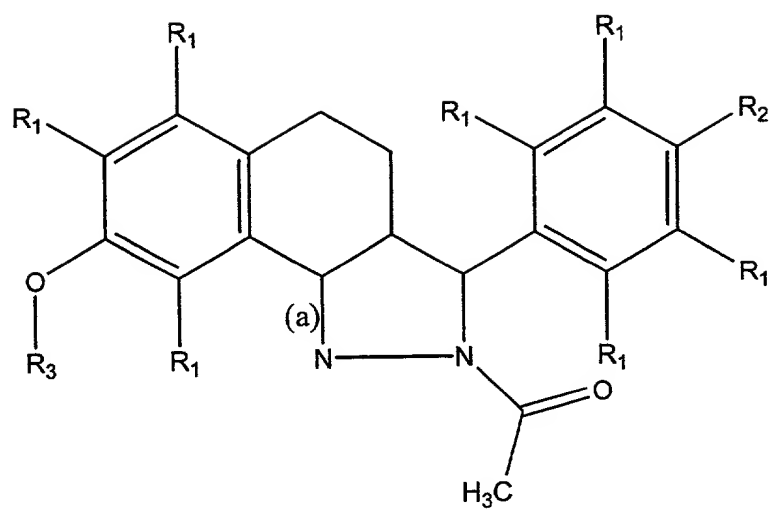
Fig. 3

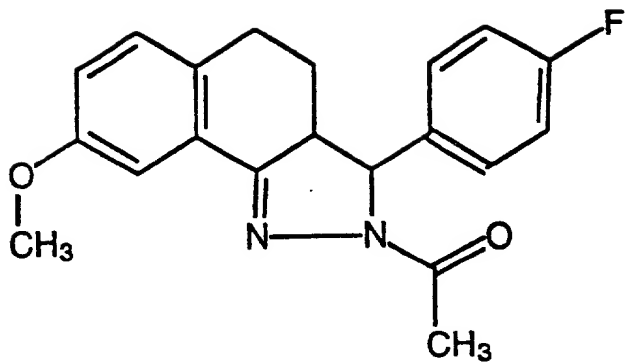


Cc1cc(O)c(cc1C(=O)C=Cc2ccc(O)c([N+](=O)[O-])c2)C(=O)O

**Fig. 4**

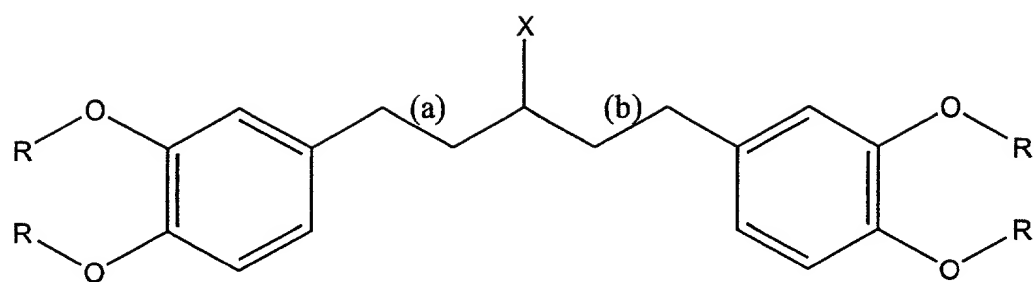
Fig. 5



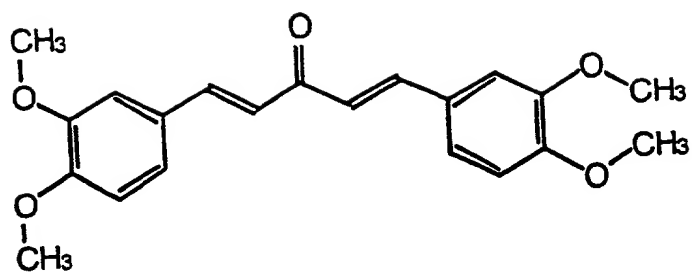
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**Fig. 6**

Fig. 7







**Fig. 8**

**COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled SMALL MOLECULE INHIBITORS OF NECROSIS, the specification of which

☒ is attached hereto.

☐ was filed on \_\_\_\_\_ as Application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_  
and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ was described and claimed in PCT International Application No. \_\_\_\_\_  
filed on \_\_\_\_\_ and as amended under PCT Article 19 on \_\_\_\_\_.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information I know to be material to patentability in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

**FOREIGN PRIORITY RIGHTS:** I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed:

| Country | Serial Number | Filing Date | Priority Claimed? |
|---------|---------------|-------------|-------------------|
|         |               |             | Yes/No            |

**PROVISIONAL PRIORITY RIGHTS:** I hereby claim priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119(e) and §120 of any United States provisional patent application(s) listed below filed by an inventor or inventors on the same subject matter as the present application and having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed:

| Serial Number | Filing Date | Status  |
|---------------|-------------|---------|
| 60/159,668    | 10/15/99    | Pending |
| 60/174,749    | 01/06/00    | Pending |

**NON-PROVISIONAL PRIORITY RIGHTS:** I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the

## COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information I know to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

| Serial Number | Filing Date | Status |
|---------------|-------------|--------|
|               |             |        |
|               |             |        |

I hereby appoint the following attorneys and/or agents to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: Paul T. Clark, Reg. No. 30,162, Karen L. Elbing, Ph.D. Reg. No. 35,238, Kristina Bieker-Brady, Ph.D. Reg. No. 39,109, Susan M. Michaud, Ph.D. Reg. No. 42,885, Mary Rose Scozzafava, Ph.D., Reg. No. 36,268, James D. DeCamp, Ph.D., Reg. No. 43,580, Sean J. Edman, Reg. No. 42,506, Timothy J. Douros, Reg. No. 41,716.

Address all telephone calls to: Kristina Bieker-Brady, Ph.D. at 617/428-0200.

Address all correspondence to: Kristina Bieker-Brady, Ph.D. at Clark & Elbing LLP, 176 Federal Street, Boston, MA 02110.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patents issued thereon.

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|------------------------------------|---|---|-------------|
| Junying Yuan                       | Boston, MA                                  | Boston, MA  |             |
| Signature:                         |   |   | Date:       |

| Full Name<br>(First, Middle, Last) | Residence Address<br>(City, State, Country) | Post Office Address<br>(Street, City, State, Country) | Citizenship |
|------------------------------------|---|---|-------------|
| Alexei Degterev                    | Brookline, MA                               | Brookline, MA   |             |
| Signature:                         |   |   | Date:       |

**COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY**

|                                    |   |   |             |
|------------------------------------|---|---|-------------|
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| Tim Mitchison                      | Brookline, MA                               | Brookline, MA   |             |
| Signature:                         |   |   | Date:       |